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Japan

LDP Leader on Difficulty in Opening Rice Market

OW2112050292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0338 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Seiroku Kajiyama, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said Monday Japan faces difficulty in opening its rice market to imports despite growing prospects of an agreement to liberalize global farm trade.

Kajiyama made the remark in a meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost, Japanese officials said.

Japan is under international pressure to convert its near total ban on rice imports into tariffs as part of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade liberalization talks.

Annual Reports From Futenma Station Publicized

OW2312060592 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 17 Dec 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Mr. Yoichi Iha, chairman of the Ginowan City Employees Union, made public on 16 December contents from annual reports prepared by commanders from the U.S. Marine station at Futenma. Copies of these reports were made available through the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.

The reports revealed hitherto unknown facts. One indicated that underground sheds for ground-to-air Nike missiles—the missiles removed before Okinawa's reversion to Japan—are being converted into ordinance sheds. The reports revealed how frequent emergency conditions occurred. They also revealed the U.S. Forces' unilateral views on relations with the Japanese civilian population. Committee Chairman Iha complained, "The reports stressed that there were friendly relations between the base and the civilian population, and did not say a word about protests and demands made by the city government."

The annual reports, copies of which were obtained from U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters in Okinawa, were prepared and submitted by the commanders (with the rank of colonel) of the Futenma Station to the Marine Corps Headquarters for the three years of 1989, 1990, and 1991. The reports concerned station operations, the status of current construction projects, and major events and relations with the residents in the surrounding area. Each of the reports ran to about 20 pages with attachments for reference data included. A civic organization in Yokohama—"Peace Information Joint Union"—initially obtained the copies of the reports and handed them to the Ginowan City Employees Union for analysis.

Number of Flights

The number of aircraft flights from the station were recorded at 67,485 in 1989, 43,206 in 1990, and 33,962 in 1991. The number of flights appears to be decreasing each year. On the other hand, the 1992 [as published] report wrote: "In 1991, as a result of reorganization, operation time for the air station increased to 77 hours from 70 hours a week. Pursuant to unit training plans, training is being conducted on separate weekends and holidays, broken down by unit (each receiving five hours)."

The reports showed that emergency conditions occurred 58 times in 1989 and 27 times in 1990. The figures for 1991 were not given.

Arresting gear—the device used to stop aircraft from overrunning an airstrip—were found to have been used as many as 24 times in 1989. One report had attached to it a clipping from the OKINAWA MARINE, a public relations newspaper for U.S. Marine Corps troops in Okinawa. The clipping said: "The crash-fire rescue and rehabilitation unit takes appropriate actions if an aircraft with mulfunctioning braking systems lands on the strip." The services of that unit were required once in 1990. The 1991 report made no mention of it.

Construction for Facility Expansion

There were 10 projects launched to improve facilities in 1991—for the construction of troop billets and other things—which used the burden-sharing budget of the Japanese Government; and four from the U.S. Marine Corps budget, one project which was remodeling the old Nike missile sheds into ordinance sheds. No doubt, there were more projects carried out through burden-sharing with Japan.

The main projects undertaken through the Japanese budget were: 1) the construction of bachelor quarters for troops, 2) the construction of an internal medicine clinic, 3) construction of hangers for C-130 transport planes, 4) the construction of engine test rooms, and 5) the installation of fire-fighting facilities.

The projects carried out with the U.S. Marine Corps budget included: 1) Construction of the Military Police Headquarters; 2) the installation of a security system linking Military Police Headquarters with ordnance depots and ammunition dumps; and 3) construction of warehouses for base supplies. In addition, there were 500 smaller projects, including one to repair the walls of toxic waste storage facilities and one to repair airstrip security illumination facilities.

Crash-Fire Drill

A crash-fire drill pit was constructed in 1989, and training started there in December of the same year. Army reserve troops from Tennessee underwent training there for two weeks. The reports stressed the reason for and importance of the training there, and revealed that training is conducted there frequently.

The Ginowan City Employees Union has warned in the past about the possibility of toxic materials being mixed in the waste oil that is used at the training ground. The reports made no mention of it, but the Employees Union is taking particular note of the fact that the use of waste oil in the training is authorized at the discretion of the Futenma Air Station commander.

The U.S. Department of Defense defines the content of polychlorinated biphenyl [PCB's] under 49 ppm [parts per million] as tolerable (while Japan's rules do not say this). As such, the Employees Union thinks that that this is the justification for allowing the use of the toxic waste oil—even though in low concentrations.

The trade union warned: "Training is conducted frequently. We cannot ignore the possibility that toxic waste oil is being disposed of—in the name of conducting training."

Hayami Criticizes Draft Budget Revenue Estimate

OW2112135492 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Recorded statement by Masaru Hayami, chairman of Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives), at a 21 December news conference, commenting on the Ministry of Finance's fiscal 1993 draft budget released earlier in the day; place not given—from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] The draft budget guarantees a 4.85-percent increase in public works spending when compared with the level of the current fiscal year. I also see that the government really has tried hard to secure funds, and I want to welcome this point.

Nevertheless, I am suspicious of whether the government will actually be able to obtain the expected revenues. The draft budget was compiled on the assumption that Japan can achieve an economic growth rate of 3.3 percent in the next fiscal year, but I think this figure is too optimistic.

The government tends to talk about tax increases when faced with revenue shortfalls, but I cannot support such a solution.

Mori: No Need for Extra Pump-Priming Measures

OW2212041192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0317 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori said Tuesday that the government should not consider additional pump-priming measures as it is preparing a budget for fiscal 1993 that will be a complete one able to prop up the economy.

"We should not be worried about that before compiling a budget. Finance Minister (Yoshiro) Hayashi is confident as well that a fiscal 1993 budget will be enough for the economic recovery," Mori said at a press conference. Fiscal 1993 begins April 1.

"Effects of the last pump-priming package are expected to begin filtering into (the economy) in the January-March and April-June periods next year," Mori said.

Asked about the contents of a draft fiscal 1993 budget unveiled Monday by the Finance Ministry, Mori said, "it has very tight contents as a whole."

Mori expressed his intention to make every effort to revise the budget plan in favor of his ministry's programs for coping with energy and environmental problems and salvaging small and medium-sized companies among others. The government is scheduled to adopt its budget plan for fiscal 1993 on Saturday after negotiations between the Finance Ministry and other government agencies.

Labor Survey Shows Easing of Worker Shortage

OW2212084292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0736 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japan's shortage of workers has shown signs of easing as corporations cut back on jobs amid the protracted economic slump, the Labor Ministry reported Tuesday. The ministry, citing its survey on the employment situation for the first half of 1992, said the deficit of workers decreased by 470,000 from a year earlier to 1.85 million at the end of June.

The shortage rate or the ratio of jobs offered by corporations to jobs filled stood at 4.7 percent, down 1.4 percentage points from the year before, the ministry said. It said the ratio for the service sector, including wholesalers, retailers and restaurant operators, dropped 2.5 points to 4.0 percent, while that for manufacturers declined 1.8 points to 4.6 percent. In contrast, the ratio for the construction industry remained high at 11.7 percent, the ministry said.

The ratio for small enterprises with five to 29 workers stood at 8.2 percent against 2.3 percent for larger corporations, the ministry said. It said the number of workers quitting their jobs during the first half of the year decreased to 2.29 million from 2.43 million a year earlier. In the case of part-time workers, the number rose to 690,000 from 650,000, the ministry said.

Emperor on Events in 1992, Prospects for 1993

OW2312013492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0106 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 23 KYODO—Emperor Akihito turned 59 years old Wednesday.

The emperor told reporters that among the events in 1992 he was most impressed by his October visit to China.

Recalling his visit with Empress Michiko to China to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral diplomatic relations, the emperor said he felt that "hearts share things that transcend borders."

"There have been regional conflicts leading to many victims. But it is very important for the creation of world peace to look for common aspects while deepening mutual understanding about divergent aspects," he said.

On his scheduled visit to Okinawa in April 1993, the emperor said he feels pain when he thinks of the grief of people on the island whose relatives were killed during World War II.

The emperor will visit the nation's southernmost prefecture on the occasion of a yearly tree-planting ceremony, becoming the first emperor ever to visit the island.

Asked about the possible marriage of Crown Prince Naruhito, 32, the emperor said he hopes a "quiet environment" will be preserved for him. The reference was to a limited agreement by Japanese media to ban reporting the crown prince's search for a wife.

While the crown prince did not show a desire to marry when he was 25 years old, the age at which Emperor Akihito married Empress Michiko, things are now different, the emperor said.

On a possible visit to South Korea, the emperor said that if such a chance presents itself, he will try to promote mutual understanding and friendship with people there.

North Korea

ROK-U.S. Wartime Support Agreement Denounced

SK2412044392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 24 Dec 92

["South Korea-U.S. 'Wartime Support Agreement' Aimed at Northward Invasion Brought Into Effect"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 24 (KCNA)—The South Korean "Foreign Ministry" announced that the aggressive and treacherous South Korea-U.S. "Wartime Support Agreement" was brought into effect on December 23.

The South Korean anti-national elements signed the "agreement" aimed at northward invasion with their American master in November last year and now officially announced its effectuation after undergoing "formalities of ratification and endorsement."

Under the "agreement" the United States has created preconditions for unrestrictedly hurling its aggression forces into South Korea in case of another war of aggression on the North, and the South Korean authorities are obliged to support the U.S. imperialist aggression army reinforcements and to provide roads, facilities, buildings, etc. to the U.S. Army without restrictions in peactime, too.

JNCC Chairman Again Proposes 14th Meeting

SK2312112892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1110 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—Choe U-chin, chairman of the North side to the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee, in his telephone message to his South side's counterpart Kong No-myong today, again proposed to hold the 14th meeting of the committee.

It is reasonable from every respect, said Choe, for the chairmen of both sides in charge of the responsible work of the joint committee to have contacts between members while holding effective committee meetings. The South side, however, turning down our side's proposal, is avoiding the designation of the date of the committee meeting. This cannot be regarded as a stand for a sincere solution of the problem.

Stating that there was no change in the basic stand of the North side to hold the meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and contacts between its members in parallel, he said:

We once again propose to your side to have the 14th meeting on December 28 as proposed by us. If your side find it inconvenient to hold the meeting that day, another date may be chosen.

We will go to the contact of members at 10 on the morning of December 24, if your side clearly set the date of the committee meeting in response to this proposal of ours, Choe stated.

Suggests 28 Dec for Meeting

SK2312125592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1214 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Choe U-chin, our side's chairman to the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC], sent a telephone message to the South side's Chairman Kong No-myong on 23 December. The telephone message points out the following:

As I mentioned in the 21 December telephone message to you, to overcome the current difficulties that lie ahead of the North-South JNCC, I believe that it is reasonable from every aspect for the chairmen of both sides in charge of the responsible work of the joint committee to have members contacts, while at the same time holding effective basic meetings.

Your side, nevertheless, is not accepting our side's just and reasonable proposal. It is even avoiding a move to

settle on a date for the basic meeting. This cannot be regarded as a stand leading to a sincere solution of the problem.

Through this opportunity, I once again clearly state that there is no change in our side's fundamental position to hold concurrently the JNCC basic meeting and members contacts. We once again propose to your side to hold the 14th JNCC meeting on 28 December. If your side finds it inconvenient to hold the meeting on that day, then there is no problem in choosing another date.

We will hold the members contact at 1000 on Thursday, 24 December, if your side clearly responds to our proposal by setting the date of the basic meeting.

Daily Denounces Israeli Expulsion of Palestinians

SK2412051592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 24 Dec 92

["Unjustifiable Act"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the expulsion of some 400 Palestinians from the occupied land to a no-man's-land by Israel a few days ago.

Branding this as an inhuman act, the analyst says:

This expulsion may aggravate the tension in the region and adversely affect the peace process in the Middle East.

This step of Israel cannot but be a challenge to the Arab people and the peaceloving people of the world who want a fair solution of the Middle East problem.

Israel contends that the forcible evacuation of Palestinians is to "prevent terrorism" and it is not obstructive to the Mideast peace process. This does not stand to reason. This is no more than an attempt to justify the inhumane and anti-peace act of Israel.

A fair package solution of the Middle East problem is possible only when Israel withdraws from all the occupied land and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people are guaranteed.

Israel should act from this stand and immediately let the expelled Palestinians return in safety.

Kim Il-song Receives Over 200 Solidarity Letters

SK2312111092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—Voices of international solidarity for the reunification of Korea loudly rang out from all regions of the world this year.

In their solidarity messages and letters to the great leader President Kim Il-song, over 200 party leaders and heads of state and government including Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; Alpha Oumar Konare, president and head of state of Mali; Didier Ratsiraka, president of Madagascar; Lansana Conte, president of Guinea; Guzman Rivera Castanera, general secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Peru; and public figures of over 160 countries stressed that the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo (DCRK) is the most just and realistic one.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received 360 solidarity messages and letters from the general secretary of the Communist Party of the peoples of Spain, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain, the chairman of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru and many other foreign party leaders and officials.

40 international and regional organisations, over 1,000 political parties and organisations, and political, public and academic figures and men of the press fully supported the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity and the DCRK founding proposal through their statements, talks, appeals, resolutions and solidarity messages.

Some 2,000 solidarity measures were taken in about 100 countries amid great interests of leading officials of parties, governments and organisations and mass movements supporting Korea's reunification was conducted in various forms according to the appeal of an enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace of Korea to expand and develop the solidarity movement in keeping with the requirement of a new situation when a decisive phase of Korea's reunification has been made.

330 solidarity organisations active in over 100 countries have developed in scope the solidarity movement supporting peace and reunification of Korea this year in an organized way and on an unprecedented scale.

The international solidarity movement for denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula was conducted worldwide this year. At an international conference held in Kathmandu in accordance with the appeal of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace of Korea to set 1992 as a "year of international solidarity for denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula", representatives of 30 governments, political parties, parliaments, organisations and international organisations and anti-nuke peace champions unanimously expressed their determination to wage an active international solidarity movement to force the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea, denuclearize the Korean peninsula and accelerate Korea's reunification.

Voices of solidarity demanding denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula loudly rang out at international and regional conferences including the world conference against A-H bombs, the international conference of lawyers on Korea, a joint meeting of political parties,

governments, organisations and international organisations to support Korea's reunification, a meeting of the executive comittee of the World Peace Council, the 36th meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the 48th meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the Second International Youth Conference Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference for Reunification and Peace of Korea and the Asian Regional Solidarity Conference for peace and Reunification of Korea.

130 political parties, public organisations, international and regional organisations and public figures through statements, talks and letters of protest, strongly demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, saying that it is a criminal act of frustrating the North-South dialogue.

Nearly 500 million people including party leaders, heads of state and government and speakers of parliaments of 60 countries took part in the international signature campaign.

Kim Chong-il Sends Message to Trainees

SK2212053092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a letter "let us bring the advantages of our people's power into fuller play" to the participants in a national training course of people's government officials.

He said in the letter that the political, economic and military foundations of the people's power have been consolidated as firm as a rock and its functions and role been enhanced as a result of the thoroughgoing application of "socialist constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" in all fields of socialist construction in the past and the independent and creative life of the working masses is being guaranteed more satisfactorily in all realms of state and social life through the active promotion of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

He gave a new exposition and overall consummation of the essence and advantages of the people's power and its functions and role, the fundamental principles and ways of building it and the tasks and ways of activities of the people's power bodies, etc.

The letter sets it as the general goal of activities of the people's power to fully ensure the independent and creative life of the popular masses by modelling the whole of society on the chuche idea. And it expounds in detail the position and role of power organs at all levels and the forms and methodology of their activities to attain the goal.

It sets forth detailed tasks facing the people's power organs and ways to carry them out, including the question of enhancing in every way the functions and role of the people's power which is guided by the great chuche idea, under the outstanding leadership of the prespected leader President Kim Il-song and strictly relies upon the broad masses in order to vigorously advance the cause of socialism, the question of holding fast to the revolutionary principle in the building of power, and the question of firmly building up power organs of all levels and steadily improving and strengthening work of power bodies in keeping with the developing reality and aspirations of the popular masses.

Kim Chong-il Thanks Crew for Shipping Efforts

SK2212104492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a message of thanks to the crew of the ship Pongsan.

The message notes that the crew of the ship, upholding the party's shipping policy, have ensured shipment without accident while annually overfulfilling their quotas and carried import and export goods in good time, overcoming manifold hardships and difficulties, thus making an active contribution to the nation's economic construction and the development of foreign trade.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also extended thanks to those who distinguished themselves in developing the traditional beautiful military-civilian relations. The recipients are officials of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea (UAWPK), the South and North Pyongan provincial, Kangwon provincial, North Hwanghae provincial and Pyongyang municipal committees of the UAWPK, the party members and working people in Samsok District, Pyongyang and the teachers and students of the University of Chemical Industry.

Kim Chang-uk Conveys Kim Chong-il's Thanks

SK2312101792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Comrade Kim Chong-il, dear leader of our party and people, sent thanks to employees of the Pyongyang electric power transmission complex who showed a fine example in supporting the People's Army. [passage omitted]

On the morning of 22 December, a gathering was held to convey dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's thanks to employees of Pyongyang electric power transmission complex.

Notables, including Kim Chang-uk, secretary of Pyongyang municipal party committee, attended the gathering together with employees of the complex. [passage omitted]

Yi Chong-ok at Seminar Honoring Kim Chong-suk

SK2312051392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang Dec. 23 (KCNA)—A national seminar was held at the People's Palace of Culture here Tuesday in commemoration of the 75th birth anniversary of Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable Communist revolutionary fighter.

Among those present were Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president, and Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee.

The speakers said Comrade Kim Chong-suk was born into a patriotic and revolutionary family in Osan-tong, Hoeryong-Myon, Hoeryong County, North Hamgyong Province, on December 24, 1917, 75 years ago and embarked upon the revolutionary road in her early years and fought staunchly for applying the revolutionary idea and the chuche-based revolutionary line of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in hearty response to them, thus performing undying feats in accomplishing the historic cause of national liberation and building a new country.

Cherishing in her heart purest and noblest loyalty to the leader of revolution throughout the revolutionary struggle, Comrade Kim Chong-suk fully displayed indomitable revolutionary spirit and strong will, skilful method of work and popular traits, revolutionary comradeship and lofty sense of obligation, thus defending the leader of the Korean revolution and provided a decisive factor of firm guarantee for the continuity of the revolutionary cause of chuche, they said.

They said Comrade Kim Chong-suk hardened her loyalty to the great leader through her life and showed it in her practical activities with all consistency to carry through his orders and instructions.

Her greatest feat for our nation and the revolution is that she brought the brilliant star above Mt. Paektu to be the heir to the revolutionary cause of chuche.

Comrade Kim Chong-suk kindly taught and looked after young Comrade Kim Chong-il to fully carry forward the lofty intention of the great leader and set a true example in loyal services to the leader, they said.

South Korea

Wartime Support Agreement To Take Effect 23 Dec

SK2312030792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] A South Korea-U.S. agreement on the Wartime Host Nation Support (WHNS), which was signed by foreign ministers of the two countries on Nov. 21 last year, will be put into force today, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The accord clarifies the U.S. plan to increase its troops in Korea during emergencies and the Korean plan to provide necessary support for the increased U.S. troops.

A ministry official said that the pact aims at preventing a probable weakening of Korea-U.S. joint defense military power after the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korea and consolidating the U.S. defense pledge to South Korea.

Tokyo To Resume Talks on Comfort Women Issue

SK2412065092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0239 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—Japan will issue a second report next month on Korean "comfort women" taken to frontline brothels to provide sex for Japanese soldiers during World War II, but is unlikely to admit it coerced these women, the SANKEI SHIMBUN reported Thursday.

The Tokyo government decided to resume talks with Seoul that were suspended due to South Korea's presidential election last week and seek a solution as soon as possible, the SANKEI said.

The second report will be compiled from the parliamentary library and interrogation reports from the U.S. General Headquarters stationed in Japan during the war, the paper said. But the report was unlikely to reveal that the Japanese Government forcibly took the Korean women, it said.

Historians estimate between 100,000 to 200,000 Korean women were taken to brothels as sex slaves. Japan issued its first report in July of 126 cases and formally admitted the government was directly involved in operating the brothels.

But the report only added to South Koreans' rage by saying the government did not find any evidence that the women were forcibly taken.

Japan's basic position is that all forms of compensation were covered when Seoul and Tokyo normalized relations in 1965. Japan gave South Korea 3 billion U.S. dollars plus a 2 billion-dollar loan at the time.

Tokyo wants to establish a fund for the Korean victims rather than pay individual compensation, while Seoul insists Japan must first admit to forcibly taking the comfort women before it is willing to discuss compensation.

President Thanks U.S. Forces in Christmas Message

SK2412051292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0234 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u thanked the United States forces in Korea for their vigilance and sacrifice in a Christmas message Thrusday.

"The Korean people continue to enjoy peace, freedom and progress" thanks to the presence here of the U.S. forces, who have "provided security and stability," No said.

In his five years as president, No noted, Korea became a member of the United Nations and normalized relations with 44 countries, including China and Russia, and "achieved a measure of success in opening a new era of economic stability and liberal democracy in Korea."

"But North Korean authorities continue to refuse to renounce the development of nuclear weapons," he said, adding that North Korea's "development or possession of nuclear device of any kind would seriously aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula."

He appreciated the U.S. soldiers' contribution and dedication to the development of Korea and hoped that upon completion of their tours they would return home safely with "fond memories" of Korea.

Foreign Ministry Reshuffles Ambassadorial Posts

SK2412083192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0759 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—The government named Yi Chang-su ambassador to the Philippines, Chang Myong-kwan ambassador to Indonesia and Yi Sang-chin chief of mission to Mexico on Thursday.

Pak Chong-sang, consul-general to Los Angeles, becomes ambassador to Romania while Ambassador-at-large Pak Nam-kyun will take up the post of mission chief in Ireland.

The government, in a reshuffle of 11 ambassador-level officials, also named Min Pyong-sok, presidential secretary for foreign affairs and national security, as top envoy to Czechoslovakia and Kim Chong-hwan of the Defense Intelligence Agency as ambassador to Myanmar.

An Hyon-won, who was minister to Germany, moves to Ukraine as ambassador and Kim Hang-kyong, ambassador to Myanmar, switches to consul-general to Los Angeles.

Pak Pu-yol, a research officer at the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), takes up the ambassadorship to Tanzania and Kang Kun-taek, the ministry's senior coordinator for policy planning, goes to Fiji as chief of mission.

Ambassadors Kim Chae-chun from Indonesia, No Chong-ki from the Philippines, Yi Pok-hyong from Mexico, and Yi Hyon-hong from Romania will all return to Seoul. So will ambassadors Son Chun-yong from Czechoslovakia, Min Hyon-ki from Ireland and Paek Yong-ki from Fiji.

New ambassador to the Philippines Yi Chang-su, 61, is a gradute of Seoul National University and joined the Foreign Ministry in 1954. He served as director of international trade, policy coordinator and director-general of international trade affairs, and assistant minister for economic affairs while in Seoul. Overseas posts include counsellor to Sweden, consul-general to Hong Kong and ambassador to Sweden and Australia. Yi has been research commissioner at IFANS since April 1991.

Chang Myong-kwan, 61, ambassador to Indonesia, graduated from Seoul National University. He entered the ministry in 1958. He was director of protocol, director of information and director-general of African Affairs. Chang went to Paris and Bangui as counsellor, to Senegal and Spain as ambassador. He returned to Seoul in July 1991 as IFANS research commissioner.

Yi Sang-chin, 59, new envoy to Mexico, studied at Pusan National University before joining the ministry in 1956. He was director of international trade and director-general for European affairs. His overseas assignments include counsellor to Tokyo, minister to Sri Lanka and Tokyo, and ambassador to Turkey and Argentina. He has been with IFANS as research commission from July 1991.

Pak Chong-sang, 63, who goes to Romania, is from Korea University. He became a diplomat in 1955 and was director of international trade and director-general of Middle East Affairs. He went to Malaysia and Belgium as a counsellor, to Washington, D.C., as minister, and to Kuwait as ambassador. He goes to Romania from Los Angeles, where he has been consul-general from February 1989.

New ambassador to Ireland Pak Nam-kyun, 58, is a graduate of Seoul National University. After entering the ministry in 1957, he went overseas as counsellor to Kenya, minister to Mexico, consul-general to Houston and ambassador to Malawi and Hellenic Republic. He had been ambassador-at-large from February this year.

Min Pyong-sok, 49, studied at Seoul National University and has a doctorate in political science from the University of Cincinnati. The new minister ambassador to Czechoslovakia joined the ministry in 1976 and served at home as director of security division. He was counsellor to Washington, D.C., and consul-general to West Berlin before he returned to Seoul in May 1988 as secretary to the president for foreign affairs and national security.

Kim Chong-hwan, 54, graduated from the Korea Military Academy in 1963. The new ambassador to Myanmar was chief of the 10th Air Defense Artillery Group of the Capital Defense Command, commanding-general of the 701st defense security unit of the Defense Security Command and deputy director of the J5 Strategic Planning Bureau of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He went to Washington, D.C., as defense attache and has

been special assistant to the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency since may 1991.

An Hyon-won, 56, is a graduate of Seoul National University. The new chief of mission to Ukraine joined the Foreign Ministry in 1961. He was director of international trade, deputy director-general of treaties, inspector-general and director-general for consular and overseas residents affairs while at home. His overseas assignments included counsellor and minister to Bonn, consul-general to Miami and his latest post was also minister to Bonn.

Kim Hang-kyong, 52, studied at Seoul National University and has a master's degree in political science from the University of the Philippines. The new consul-general to Los Angeles became a diplomat in 1970 and was director of the Southeast Asia division, ministry spokesman and director-general for consular and overseas residents affairs. He went to New York as deputy consul-general. He has been ambassador to Myanmar from June 1990.

Pak Pu-yol, 54, is from Choson University. The ambassador to Tanzania entered the Foreign Ministry in 1968 and served as director of information analysis division, deputy director-general of treaties and inspector-general. He was counsellor to Saudi Arabia and Suriname and ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago. He was with IFANS from March this year.

Kang Kun-taek, 47, became a diplomat in 1972 after graduating from Seoul National University. The ambassador to Fiji served as director of security, secretary to the president for policy development and has been senior coordinator for policy planning from May 1991.

Other Appointments Noted

SK2412084592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0803 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—Kwon Pyong-hyon, research commissioner at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), was named assistant foreign minister for policy planning Thursday.

Kwon replaces Yi Sung-kon, who moves to IFANS.

Kim Chae-sop, director-general of international organizations, was appointed minister to the South Korean Embassy in Germany and Kum Chung-ho, deputy director-general of international organizations, was named to replace him.

Kim Myong-pae, consul-general to the South Korean Embassy in Washington, returns to the headquarters as senior coordinator for policy planning, replacing Kang Kun-taek, who goes to Fiji as ambassador.

Hwang Kil-sin, deputy director-general for passports, goes to IFANS, while Hwang Kyu-chung from the institute takes over his post.

Yim Tae-taek, deputy director-general of Middle East and African Affairs, takes over as senior coordinator for planning and management and Hwang Yong-sik, minister to the Philippines, returns as deputy director-general of international organizations.

Yi Tae-sik of IFANS was named deputy director-general of international economic affairs.

Government Paroles Mun Ik-hwan, Yim Su-kyong

SK2412113192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1118 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—Rev. Mun Ik-hwan who has been serving a prison term for illegal visit to Pyongyang to meet Kim Il-song in 1989 was one of the 26 persons for whom the government announced a special clemency Thursday.

Moon had his term commuted to five years leaving one year and eleven more months to serve. The 74-year-old clergyman drew seven years in prison after he met Kim Il-song during his clandestine visit to Pyongyang in April 1989.

Two other illegal visitors to North Korea, Miss Yim Su-kyong and Priest Mun Ik-hwan, were paroled.

Also in the Christmas-eve amnesty, former transportation minister Cha Kyu-hon had his remaining term exempted and Chon Kyong-hwan, former chancellor of the Saemaul Undong, had his civil rights rehabilitated.

Five others were accorded a special pardon in which they had their prison verdicts abated.

They were former Home Minister Kim Chong-ho, former Chongwadae [presidential offices] Secretary Yi Hak-pong, former Seoul Subway Co. President Kim Chae-myong, and ex-president Chon Tu-hwan's brothers-in-law Yi Chang-sok and Yu Chun-sok.

Twelve persons had their civil rights restored, who included former Seoul Mayor Yom Po-hyon, former Seoul educational board head Choe Yol-kon, ex-president Chon's brother Chon Ki-hwan, Chon Kyong-hwan's brother-in-law Hwang Hong-sik, ex-President Chon's cousin Chon Wu-hwan, Yi Kyu-song who was the uncle of ex-President Chon's wife, and Chon Tu-hwan's nephew Kim Yong-to.

In addition, three former legislators—Yi Won-pae, Yi Tae-sop and Pak Chae-kyu, and former Chongwadae official Chang Pyong-cho were given special pardon and thus had their remaining terms exempted.

Under the step, Yi Won-pae and Chang Pyong-cho were released from prison Thursday. The two others had already been set free with the stay of the execution of prison term or detention.

Kim Yong-sam To Reorganize Party Before 25 Feb

SK2312063192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0512 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 23 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam was working on reforms for the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], including the party leadership, DLP sources said Wednesday.

Kim, who is head of the party, feels the need for change in the DLP structure since it was built on the basis of the merger on Feb. 9, 1990, of three parties. He hopes to undertake large-scale reforms before his inauguration Feb. 25, the sources said.

Among the major reforms is a change to a single leader from the current collective leadership necessitated by the merger, the sources said. Specifically, Kim wants to get rid of the posts of co-chairmen in favor of an executive chairman or single chairman.

"The president-elect strongly feels that there has to be a single line of command from the president of the party on down to chief executive or chairman, if he is to maintain strong party leadership," one of Kim's aides said.

"Until his reform plans take hold, he will not recognize an oligarchical system," he said, asking for anonymity.

Kim also believes that there remains a "heterogeneous element" in the party even after the presidential election and is studying ways to remove these elements, he said.

The party president will set the official DLP line as "conservative reformist" and induce all outside forces that would go along with it into the party, the aide said.

Restructuring in 'New Political Climate'

SK2312080092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 23 (YONHAP)—As the dust from the presidential election settled, the major parties began to regroup Wednesday for a new political climate.

President-elect Kim Yong-sam was said to be studying ways to simplify the chain of command in his Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] through an executive chairman or a chairman, eliminating the current oligarchy that is the legacy of the three party merger of 1990, DLP sources said.

The main opposition Democratic Party was nominally under the control of Yi Ki-taek, co-president of the party, in the absence of Kim Tae-chung, who announced his retirement from active politics last week in the wake of his defeat in the presidential election.

The future of the United People's Party [UPP] is in doubt following the dismal performance of its presidential candidate, Hyundai Group founder Chong Chu-yong. Some analysts believe the survival of the party itself is in question as the tycoon created it for the sole purpose of running for president.

Many senior UPP officials waited in the wings with hats in hand while Chong retreated to his farm in Sosan, South Chungchong Province, after the election and refused to make any public comment on himself or his party.

Chong held his first meeting with some of top UPP officials in Kyongju, North Kyongsang Province, on Wednesday morning and they discussed the future of the party.

Chong and the officials agreed that they will have to regroup as soon as possible, party sources said.

The agreement came, they said, after the officials, who included just-joined Rep. Yi Chong-chan and DLP deserter Rep. Pak Chol-on, asked Chong to return to take command of the party at an early date. Chong is expected to return to Seoul next week.

At the meeting, the UPP leaders also agreed to work out party goals such as constitutional reform for a parliamentary form of government and ways to cooperate with the Democratic Party, the sources said.

Meanwhile, Kim Yong-sam, who had visited his hometown on Koje Island and his father in Masan, near Pusan, returned to Seoul on Wednesday and made courtesy calls on former Presidents Choe Kyu-ha and Chon Tu-hwan.

At his separate meetings with Choe and Chon, the president-elect asked the former presidents for their advice and support, Kim's aides said.

In a separate development, the Democratic Party has decided to keep up its pressure on the government to punish the government officials who took part in a secret meeting Dec. 11 in Pusan to discuss ways to help Kim Yong-sam win the presidential election.

The Democratic Party charged that the government was trying to prosecute those who bugged the meeting rather than the ones who broke the election law.

DP, UPP Join Effort on Pusan Meeting Issue

SK2312025792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] The Democratic Party (DP) and the United People's Party (UPP) have joined hands to mount an offensive on the government taking issue with what they call an unbalanced attitude in the investigation of the "help-Kim YS meeting" in Pusan and the scandalous wire-tapping of the meeting.

The two opposition parties argued that law enforcement authorities are lenient in the probe of the Pusan meeting while tough in the case of the bugging.

The DP and UPP decided to call for a National Assembly session to delve into the "biased" investigation.

The largest opposition DP argued in a statement adopted at an executive meeting, "Despite the fact that the Pusan meeting is proof of the loss of neutrality of the cabinet in election management, the prosecution authority places more emphasis on the wire-tapping of the meeting.

The statement said the prosecutors' office should investigate the meeting by arresting the participants before beginning the bugging case.

On Dec. 11, the Pusan mayor, police and intelligence director in the region met in a restaurant, in which they exchanged opinions on the outcome of the forthcoming election and how they can help Kim Yong-sam, the Democratic Liberal Party's presidential candidate, get elected.

The UPP resolved to strongly protest the government's "biased" investigation, urging the investigative authority to arrest all those involved in the meeting.

Rep. Pyon Chong-il, spokesman of the party, said in a statement that it is the false presumption of the prosecution that Rep. Chong Mong-chun of the UPP had tacitly consented to give 10 billion won (US $1.25 Mil.) to those who tapped the dialogue of the Pusan meeting.

The statement continued, "The Pusan meeting was not only illegal but immoral."

The New Party for Political Reform also said in a statement that the probe on the tapping scandal is a mean strategy to dilute the case of some government officials having worked to help Kim Yong- sam.

As a result of participation in the meeting, arranged by former justice minister Kim Ki-chun, the Pusan mayor was dismissed. Three others, including the superintendent of Pusan police and intelligence officers assigned there were relieved of their posts.

When he was summoned to the prosecution on Monday, former justice minister Kim Ki-chun said that the meeting was a kind of private gathering that had nothing to do with the government.

However, he made an apology on having uttered words of fanning up regionalism because they are not fitting his status as former justice minister.

According to the prosecutors, the bugging operation was organized by some employees of Hyundai Heavy Industries [HHI] and members of the United People's Party [UPP] in collaboration with an agent of the NSP's [Agency for National Security Planning] Pusan branch.

The prosecutors have alleged that An Chong-song, vice president of HHI, and Rep. Chong Mong-chun, a son of the UPP's unsuccessful presidential candidate Chong Chu-yong, were the wirepullers. Consequently, the prosecutors have issued a summons against Chong Mong-chun in connection with his alleged promise to pay 10 billion won to the three participants in recording conversations of the government officials. An fled to Japan immediately after the presidential poll.

The intensive probes into the bugging have naturally invited protests from the opposition camp—the Democratic Party and the UPP—over what they called a biased investigation. True, law-enforcement authorities have left the impression that their probe into the officials involved in the election strategy meeting has been rather superficial and lenient.

The subject officials claimed in chorus that their get-together was purely a private one arranged by former justice minister Kim Ki-chun and not designed to discuss ways of helping presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam with his election campaign. Yet, the point of issue is not whether their gathering was a private one. What counts is their official status as mayor, top prosecutor, police chief and NSP branch head as well as the contents of their conversations.

Private or not, they were the ranking government officials in active service, and so clearly banned from participating in election campaigning. Their dialogue recorded by bugging devices indicates they were seeking to abet regional antagonism among Pusan citizens in favor of Kim Yong-sam's election.

The government is now obliged to conduct an impartial and stringent investigation into the officials' involvement in the electioneering, lest its professed political neutrality should be questioned. It will be a gross mistake if the authorities focus their investigation less on the officials' illegal electioneering than the eavesdropping on the part of Hyundai and the UPP.

Investigation of Officials Urged

SK2412054592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Balanced Bugging Probes"]

[Text] The bugging incident involving heads of Pusan-based government offices is developing into a major post-election dispute. The focus of the scandal was first on their secret meeting in support of the majority party's presidential candidate but now the emphasis of the ongoing investigation into the case seems to be shifting to the eavesdropping itself.

Government Says Rice Market To Remain Closed

SK2312084792 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 23 Dec 92 p 1

[By correspondent Pak Kum-muk in Paris]

[Text] Pak Su-kil, ROK ambassador to Geneva, attended an unofficial meeting of the countries concerned with agricultural negotiations which was held on 22 December with Arthur Dunkel, secretary general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT], presiding. At the meeting, Pak delivered to the GATT

general secretary a document expressing our government's position that "it cannot accept the principle on tariffs of some agricultural products, including rice, about which people are very sensitive.

Our government expressed this position in accordance with Secretary General Dunkel's demand that the ROK express its government policy on this issue prior to Christmas Day.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

More Policemen Leave for Cambodia 20 Dec

BK2412093892 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Dec 92 p 9

[Excerpts] Kuala Lumpur, Sun—Another batch of policemen was given an emotional farewell at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport when they left for Cambodia today to join the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) peacekeeping force.

This is the sixth batch of policemen selected to serve in Cambodia.

Special Branch director Datuk Zulkifli Abdul Rahman said with this batch there would be 22 police officers and 203 other policemen serving under UNTAC. [passage omitted]

Zulkifli said 12 Malaysian policemen were presently serving with UN peacekeeping troops in Angola.

"We are now studying a UN request to deploy at least 10 men in Mozambique. Two high-ranking senior officers will be leaving for that country next month to study the situation and report back to us," Zulkifli added.

The latest team to Cambodia is headed by Assistant Superintendent Abdul Wahab Abdul Rahman and includes 17 sergeants and two corporals. [passage omitted].

The Malaysian policemen are expected to remain in Cambodia till June as general elections in the country are scheduled for May.

Minister: Troops in Cambodia on 'Full Alert'

BK2412094892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0855 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian troops serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cambodia are on full alert following increasing ceasefire violations, Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak said Wednesday.

He said so far the ministry had not received any alarming reports involving Malaysian soldiers following fighting between two factions in the North Western province of Battambang.

The soldiers would continue with their peackeeping duties there despite the violations, he told a press conference here.

The province experienced intense artillery exchanges between the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh Government troops forcing a company from a Malaysian ranger battalion to move their base as it was bombarded.

Najib also said 93 Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) ground support personnel including air traffic controllers and aircraft refuellers will be sent to Cambodia next month.

Most of the airports in Cambodian provinces lack ground support equipment.

The airport near Battambang city, where the Malaysian battalion is based, has been damaged and restricted to helicopter use.

About 900 soldiers mostly from the first battalion, Royal Ranger Regiment are serving with the military component of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and about 200 Malaysian policemen are serving with the administrative component.

Foreign Workers' Families May Be Screened for HIV

BK2312152892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0857 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Compulsory medical screening may be extended to family members of foreign workers, Malaysian Deputy Health Minister Mohamed Farid Ariffin said Tuesday. He said this was to curb the spread of dangerous diseases.

Farid said the health status of foreign workers was unsatisfactory. More than a third of the 500,000 registered with the Immigration Department so far were found to be suffering from infectious diseases, including having the AIDS virus.

"About 137,300 registered foreign workers were found to be suffering from either one or more of diseases like syphilis, leprosy, filiriasis, malaria and HIV infection," he said. He said that less than one per cent of the 137,300 were HIV positive. However, he declined to reveal the actual figure.

Farid said those with infectious diseases would be deported.

Employers of Illegal Workers Face Prosecution

BK2412104892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0922 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The government will take legal action against employers who shelter illegal immigrant workers after January 31 next year, the Dewan Negara (Senate) was told Thursday.

Parliamentary secretary in the Home Ministry Ong Ka Ting said the government felt that employers had been given ample time up to last June to get the necessary papers for their workers.

Those found guilty could be fined up to MR [Malaysian ringgit] 10,000 (about US $4,000) or jailed three years, or both.

He also said that syndicate members who brought illegal immigrants into the country could be detained under the Internal Security Act and the Restricted Residence Act.

Ong said 17,238 illegal foreign workers had been arrested since the second operation (Ops II) to round up illegal immigrants was launched last December 12.

The workers were from Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar [Burma], Thailand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Singapore.

Of the number, 11,017 were released because they had employers who ceeded their services, 3,802 were deported and the rest, including 18 children, were still being held at immigration depots, he said.

Statistics Department Reports Production Rises

BK2312084692 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Malaysia's industrial production index, IPI, rose 8.9 percent to 149.8 during the first 10 months of this year. The Statistics Department attributed the rise to the increase in mining division by 3.8 percent, manufacturing 10.5 percent, and electricity 13.8 percent. IPI measures the rate of change in industrial production over time. In manufacturing, 17 of the 19 manufacturing groups saw an increase in indices for the period.

Palm Oil Industry Moves To Control Pollution

BK2412075492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0714 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 24 (BERNAMA)—The environment laws enacted by the department of environment to control pollution by the oil palm industry would, if observed, enable the industries to move towards a "zero waste" situation, according to a paper [words indistinct].

The oil palm industry should then have a very little impact on the environment, said N. Rajanaidu, I.E. Henson and A.N. Ma of the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia [PORIM].

"In fact, it will be extremely environmentally-friendly when compared with those dealing with other major oil-bearing crops," they said in the latest issue of "PALM OIL DEVELOPMENTS", a PORIM publication.

The authors said recently a number of groups have raised questions concerning the impact of the industry on the environment and its economic and social effects.

But recent years have witnessed a change in the concept of waste management in the oil palm industry, from treatment and disposal to beneficial utilisation, they said.

The industry has grown phenomenally over the last 30 years to 2.0 million hectares in 1991 from just 55,000 hectares in 1960. Oil palm has been planted on land previously occupied by rubber or other crops or on reclaimed land.

Currently there are 262 palm oil mills, 37 refineries an seven oleochemical plants in Malaysia.

Singapore

Former Education Minister To Rejoin Cabinet

BK1812120192 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Former Minister Dr Tony Tan is returning to the Cabinet, Mr Lee Kuan Yew said last night.

But he will not return immediately as he has certain obligations to OCBC [Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation] Bank, where he is chairman and chief executive officer, as well as to his family.

His children were being educated, "and it costs a lot of money to go to Harvard," Mr Lee said at a PAP rally, adding that he was glad Dr Tan was coming back.

The Senior Minister revealed this when he talked about the difficulty of getting the best men to be in government and "not outside making money."

A minister's basic monthly pay is between $22,100 and $27,825, [Singapore dollars] while a top banker can draw up to $140,000 monthly.

Dr Tan, 52, an MP for Sembawang GRC [Group Representative Council], retired from the Cabinet on Dec 31 last year to join the bank where he was the general manager before entering politics in 1979.

Explaining his decision then, he said that his work at the Education Ministry was done and it was time to return to the private sector.

In his letter of resignation, he told Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong that he would remain ready, even when back in the private sector, to put the nation's interests above personal considerations.

He gave his assurance that should there be a pressing need for his services in the future, he would be prepared to come forward to lend his services.

His resignation was announced at the same time as that of Mr S. Dhanabalan, who returned to the Cabinet on Dec 7, to relieve DPM [Deputy Prime Minister] Lee Hsien Loong, who is suffering from cancer, of his Trade and Industry portfolio.

Joint Naval Exercise With Indonesia Ends 17 Dec

BK1712120292 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] A biennial naval exercise between the navies of Indonesia and Singapore ended today. The exercise, code-named Eagle XII 92, lasted seven days and saw some 600 officers and men from the two navies training together. For the first time, missile corvettes from both navies and an Indonesian mine hunter took part.

Cambodia

Spokesman Reports on More Khmer Rouge Attacks

BK2312153192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Press communique of the government spokesman; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] According to news sources in Battambang Province, on 15 December the Khmer Rouge from Division 36 infiltrated Kaoh Cha and Say villages, Moung District, and fired several B-40 rockets, causing the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] electoral registration team to pull back to the Moung District seat. On 18 December the Khmer Rouge attacked the position of the State of Cambodia near Ta Hen village, killing one Cambodian People's Armed Forces soldier, wounding 12 others, and kidnapping a second lieutenant named Som Bunthan of the 23d Regiment.

According to news sources in Kompong Thom Province, on 16 December the Khmer Rouge of Regiment 54, Division 802, strafed farmers harvesting rice at Stoeng Kambot, O Sandan commune, killing one and seriously injuring four.

According to news sources in Kompong Cham Province, at 2300 on 18 December, a group of armed bandits robbed the house of Hun Sreng, a resident of Samraong Commune, Prey Chhor District. First, the bandits forced Hun Sreng's children and nephews who were threshing rice near the house to take them into the house. After robbing him of cash and gold, the bandits shot and killed Hun Sreng on the spot. When the children and nephews chased them, the bandits threw a grenade at the pursuers and escaped. It was learned afterward that Hun Sreng was a member of FUNCINPEC [the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. He was appointed by this party as a chief representative in the commune. Our police are investigating the case.

At 1530 on 21 December the Khmer Rouge of Division 801 harassed the electoral registration team based at Prek Luong Monastery, Kaoh Sotin District, forcing the UNTAC people there to remove their equipment and immediately evacuate the area. Our local police intervened, but were fired at by the Khmer Rouge. A police officer and two civilians were wounded.

At 1400 on 21 December another group of Khmer Rouge shelled Tuol village, Chba Ampeou Commune, Batheay District, to harass the voter registration efforts there. No damage was reported.

On 21 December a group of Khmer Rouge on two motorcycles fired at our forces in Lvea Thom village, Tbong Khmum District, killing one of our soldiers and wounding another.

At 2130 on 20 December, 20 Khmer Rouge under the command of Ti Chhin attacked the police station at Sralab Commune, burnt down the house of Tong Khun, a FUNCINPEC member, and torched 10 vending booths in Khna market. Before escaping, this group robbed the people of five motorcycles as well as cash and gold.

Moreover, according to a report from Svay Rieng Province, at 1430 on 19 December a man named Rina, deputy head of the Democracy Party office, and five of his colleagues drove a car to the marketplace where they caused pandemonium by using a pistol to fire at a merchant named Prak Sari. The competent authorities, in cooperation with the UNTAC police, confiscated the weapons and arrested the lawbreaker.

Government Spokesman on Situation in Kompong Cham

BK1912144992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Dec 92

["Communique of the Government Spokesman"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. A report from Kompong Cham Province said a group of nine Indian troops of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] was sent on a mission to maintain security at a voter registration site at Baray commune in Srei Santhor district of Kompong Cham Province on 17 December. At a diner on the same day, those soldiers were merrily singing, dancing, and drinking. Then they got drunk. At about 2030 on that night when their commander asked them to terminate the party, a drunken soldier pointed his rifle at the commander and threatened him. At that time, another soldier intervened but he was shot dead instantly. At 0800 on 18 December, the criminal and the corpse of the dead soldier were shipped by helicopter to the provincial town.

We would like to express our sincere regret at the unfortunate incident and our sympathies with the bereaved family.

Incidentally, according to the helicopter pilot, at the time when the helicopter was lowered in order to pick up the

corpse at Khya Boeng Veng. Khmer Rouge elements in the area shot at the helicopter with machine guns and slightly damaged its tail.

2. A report from Baray commune in Srei Santhor district of Kompong Cham Province said UNTAC's voter registration officers on 17 and 18 December reported to the district authorities that Khmer Rouge troops had threatened them and forced them to remove their voter registration office out of Baray commune by 1700 on 18 December; otherwise they would be attacked. The UNTAC staff reluctantly hurriedly left the locality with their materials and arrived in the district township at 1800 on the same day.

However, it was reported that the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] continued to occupy and defend two nearby villages.

3. On 18 December, some 90 Khmer Rouge troops attacked the CPAF's position at Svay Prey village in Cheung Prey commune of Batheay district, killing a 13 year old boy and wounding a villager.

4. About 2030 on 13 December at Masin Toek village in Memot district of Kompong Cham Province, a group of unidentified armed men fired a B-40 rocket, an M-79 grenade, and many rounds with machine guns on the office of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party and the house of a policeman next door, but there were no casualties.

We will continue further investigation into the incident.

Voter Registration 'Not Fair' in Three Respects

BK2412020092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Dec 92

["Statement of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State and Chairman of the Supreme National Council, on the Issue of Elections in Cambodia"—dated 22 December; read by announcer]

[Text] I would like to again make known about my position on the following issues:

1. The nationality of the Khmer Kampuchea Kraom [Vietnamese of Cambodian origin currently living in the SRV]: In the era of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia and that of the Sangkum Reas Niyum respectively in the 1950's and 1960's, Cambodians, male and female alike, born in Kampuchea Kraom were integrally part of Cambodia—Those Khmer Kampuchea Kraom were illegally included by the Annamese empire in its (?territory) in the 18th century. And later, the French colonialist authorities incorporated them into its country in the 19th century, but they were then legally recognized as Cambodian citizens.

Although considered as Vietnamese while they are staying in South Vietnam, which is part of lower Cambodia, those Cambodians should be fully entitled to retain their rights as the legitimate Cambodian people whenever they come and stay on the present Cambodian territory. Therefore, it is vitally important that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia called UNTAC officially and fully recognize all the Khmer Kampuchea Kraom as legitimate Cambodians when they are within the Cambodian territory.

2. The issue of Cambodians living outside the Cambodian territory is identical to the issue raised above: Concerning the Cambodians, male and female alike, living outside Cambodia, they should be fully recognized as legitimate Cambodians on the Cambodian territory although they have acquired the nationality of their home countries. The retention of two or three nationalities is part of their rights, and this was also recognized in the era of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia and that of the Sangkum Reas Niyum: Those who were naturalized in France or other countries had the possibility of being appointed as ministers or ambassadors and so on of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia.

The voter registration in Cambodia, as well as the elections in April or May 1993, is not fair. UNTAC must allow all the Cambodians in this category to register at the UN centers in New York, Geneva, and Paris and at the UNESCO office in Canberra, Australia.

3. The issue of foreigners born in Cambodia: According to the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia's regulations, any foreigners born in Cambodia remained foreigners although their parents and grandparents themselves were also born in Cambodia.

[Dated] Beijing, 22 December 1992.
[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk.

Indonesian Troops Escort Returning Refugees

BK2312111692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0852 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 23 (OANA-ANTARA)—A platoon of Garuda XII-C contingent has had an opportunity to prove its rapproachement capacity with the people by escorting Cambodian refugees returning home to their native village.

The platoon had used three proas sailing along the Mekong river to bring over 146 refugees from Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia, to Stung Treng village, in the western part of the region, a press release issued by the information office of the Indonesian Army on Tuesday said.

An estimated 250,000 Cambodian people who had evacuated to avoid the 12-year civil war had returned to their native villages, in the wake of the ever-improving security situation in Cambodia, since the presence of the

United Nations peacekeeping forces, under the command of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] Transitory Administration.

The Garuda XII-C contingent, more popular under the name of Indo Batt III, and headquartered on street no. 289 Tuo Kouk, Phnom Penh, originated from battalion 411 Army Strategic Command in Salatiga, Central Java.

The 850-man personnel of Garuda contingent XII-C, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Darmawi Chaidir, arrived in Phnom Penh on December 6, replacing Garuda XII-A who had completed its nine-month duty in Cambodia.

Philippines

Kidnaped American Released; One Suspect Arrested

HK2312142892 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 23 Dec 92

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] A former United States Air Force captain was released after three days in captivity. Ex-Captain Christian Dreyfus was freed by his abductors without any compromise fee. He was found with his hands bound in front of Ali Mall in Cubao [Quezon City]. Dreyfus claims that he was kidnaped by three men last Sunday somewhere in Makati.

A few hours after Dreyfus' release, one of the suspects, attorney Fidel Gobenchang, was arrested by authorities in Manila.

Ramos Extends NUC's Term for Three Months

HK1812070292 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 18 Dec 92 p 16

[Text] President Ramos has given the National Unification Commission (NUC) three more months to reach out and bring to the negotiating table all the country's rebel forces for peace talks. Meanwhile, NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac announced last night that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has submitted its talking points to the peace body.

In a statement yesterday, Presidential Spokesperson Annabelle Tecson Abaya said that Mr. Ramos, who is now in Bangkok for a four-day official visit, "concurred with the recommendation of NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac to extend the term of the body until March 16, 1993." NUC, which was formed on Sept. 1, 1992, officially expired last Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Mr. Ramos, in an effort to lure all rebel groups into the negotiating table and end the more than 23 years of conflict in the country, has formed the NUC "to attain a just, comprehensive, peaceful and lasting resolution of the internal armed conflict that has cost the nation," Abaya said. She said the President's decision allows the NUC more time to complete its scheduled program of consultations with rebel groups throughout the country. "The NUC is due to undertake nationwide consultations until Feb. 27, 1993 in order to come up with a comprehensive and participatory general amnesty program that will lead to a just comprehensive and lasting peace in the country," said Abaya.

In expressing his concurrence, Mr. Ramos signed Executive Order No. 42 extending the term of the Peace Commission for another 90 days. Mr. Ramos's order also authorized the NUC to use its funds until Dec. 31, 1992.

Yorac said a letter by Hadji Murad, vice chairman for military affairs of the MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] central committee, raised the issues of resuming discussions about the 1976 Tripoli Agreement, the safe return of Muslim and native refugees to their places of origin in Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan, the possibility of immediately enforcing an effective-cessation of hostilities during the peace talks. Yorac said they were still hoping that the MILF and the Moro national Liberation Front [MNLF] the bigger Muslim secessionist group, will "put up a common front" for the peace talks. Yorac also announced last night that a "very significant development" concerning with rightist rebels will happen in the next 48 hours.

In a related development, Mr. Ramos has sought the help of newly-proclaimed Lanao Rep. [Representative] Ali Dimaporo (KBL [New Society Movement] Lanao del Sur) in forging a "peace formula" with some 20,000 Muslim secessionist rebels. Last Wednesday, Mr. Ramos witnessed Dimaporo's oath-taking in Marawi City and said his proclamation as congressman will give the government's peace initiative "a further boost." Lanao del Sur Gov. Mahid Mutilan also took his oath during the same occasion. Mr. Ramos said Dimaporo's return to the House of Representatives "enhances prospects for the peace process, particularly with regard to the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front." Early this week, 758 MNLF rebels surrendered to the military in Camp Evangelisia in Cagayan de Oro City.

Ramos Issues Statement on Cessation of Hostilities

HK2412084092 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 24 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Maricar S. Bautista]

[Text] The President issued this statement: "I realize this agreement to cease hostilities is merely the beginning. But, for the moment, let us count among our blessings during this holy season this end to violent confrontation—and the beginning of genuine peace—between the Government and the RAM (Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan) [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance] and civilians allied to them."

The commander-in-chief also issued this message to the military rebels who have chosen to explore the peace offer of Government: "This Government and this president welcome you as a father does—whose impetuous sons have left his house in bitterness and anger but who are now returned, safe and whole, to the bosom of the family."

The preliminary agreement which was approved by the President calls for:

—The cessation of hostilities and the suspension of the offer of reward money;

—Formal talks to begin on the second week of January; and,

—Both parties to form their respective negotiating panels and to finalize their talking points on January 11.

The cessation of hostilities will also cover all other acts short of armed activities but considered as hostile, like surveillance, special operations, arrest, recruitment and any act that can be considered as destabilization.

Government will also suspend court martial proceedings, and take steps to secure the suspension of judicial proceedings, including service of warrant, preliminary investigation and the like.

Ramos Signs Release of 58 Right-Wing Detainees

HK2312142792 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 23 Dec 92

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has signed the executive clemencies of 58 right-wing detainees. Among the 58 detainees, one was granted an absolute pardon, 18 were given temporary release on recognizance [preceding four words in English], and the others were given conditional pardons. An official statement from Malacanang said that 349 leftist detainees and 58 ultra-rightist rebels have been released.

Armed Forces Deputy Chief Retires

HK2312095592 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Vice-Admiral Proceso Fernandez has formally retired today as Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] deputy chief. Meanwhile, Brigadier General Alfredo Filler who is currently head of Task Force Hammerhead, will replace Fernandez. The turnover of duties headed by General Lisandro Abadia, AFP chief of staff, was done at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Fernandez served as Armed Forces deputy chief since 8 April 1991.

Manglapus Named International Relations Adviser

HK1812063992 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 18 Dec 92 p 8

[Text] Former Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus has been appointed as President Ramos' national adviser for international relations. Diplomatic sources said Manglapus' appointment was proof of the Ramos administration's growing dissatisfaction with Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo's performance.

Manglapus, currently chairman of the Philippine National Oil Company, is believed to have strong connections with the Christian Democrat International [CDI], based in Europe. The CDI has reportedly hailed the appointment of Manglapus.

Investments Said Running Below 1992 Target

HK2412091092 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Dec 92 p B-1

[Report by Ellen S. Marcelo]

[Text] Investments in projects approved by the Board of Investments (BOI) amounted to only P96.29 billion [Philippine pesos] in January to November this year, dimming hopes the P125- billion target for 1992 will be attained.

A BOI report released yesterday indicated that the 11-month investment figure was 21 percent higher than the P79.4 billion registered in the same period last year but this was largely accounted for by the proposed P53.77-billion integrated steel mill project of the government owned National Steel Corp. [NSC].

Without the government steel slabs project, which the BOI cleared on the basis of major conditions that NSC has yet to satisfy, the total approved projects during the period would even be much lower than the 1991 investment level.

The same report showed that this year's approved projects mostly involved power generators, totalling 1,466 out of the 1,922 BOI-listed firms. The upsurge reflected the prevailing acute power shortage in the country, the plague on the industrial sector for the past few years.

On the other hand, the BOI drew only 355 new and expansion projects in the past eleven months, despite the various investments missions initiated by Trade Secretary Rizalino S. Navarro. This pales before the 1,045 new and expansion projects registered last year.

The private sector earlier pointed out that the continuing difficulty encountered by the government in providing much needed infrastructure support, particularly the power supply, is negating efforts to improve the domestic investment climate.

The report cited that foreign equity investments were slashed by 68 percent, from P20 billion in January to November last year to P6 billion this year.

The waning foreign investors' interest was largely responsible for the 35 percent cut in total equity investments in BOI-approved projects during the period to P26.64 billion. This was from P40.96 billion poured in by foreign investors into registered projects in January to November last year.

The major foreign investors in the country during the period were the United States, which pumped in P1.56 billion from P1.44 billion; Japan, which contributed P1.28 billion from P5.8 billion; and South Korea, which infused P1.08 billion from P1.22 billion.

Thailand

Prime Minister 'Not Afraid' of Military Coup

BK2412025492 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai says he has no fear of a coup d'etat because his government would never create the political conditions that could be used as a pretext for the military to seize power.

And he has praised the current military leadership for being "happy with democracy".

"I'm not afraid of a coup d'etat," Chuan said during a special interview at Govemment House.

"I was elected to power and I don't think what the government is doing will spawn the circumstances which would lead to a coup.

"I think the current military leaders are happy with democracy and have no problem with me.

"Of course I don't know what they are thinking, but from my contacts with them [it appears] everything's fine," he said.

The prime minister, whose criticism of the military-backed Suchinda administration contributed to his Democrat Party's unexpected victory in the September general election, emphasized that his government never intended to curb the ammed forces' legitimate role in the country.

The Chuan government has sought to reduce the military's power in handling civil uprising and backed charter amendments to further limit the seize and power of the military-dominated Senate.

"Soldiers should understand that the past tradition [of filling Senate seats with soldiers] is not correct," Chuan said.

Army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit reiterated yesterday that the army under his leadership would remain out of politics and concentrate on its main task of defending the country's sovereignty and the national interest.

"The army won't meddle [in politics]. Soldiers will perform their military duty. And I believe no one is trying to get the military involved in politics," the ammy chief said.

Senate Speaker Michai Ruchuphan yesterday urged journalists not to involve military leaders in politics by asking them for comments on political issues.

Michai said the mass media tended to over emphasize the importance of political comments made by senior military officers, and that gave the public the wrong impression about their perceived influence on politics.

"Political questions should not be put to military officers in the first place. If we always ask for their comments on political issues, it's like encouraging them to get involved in politics," the Senate speaker said.

However, in a democratic society everyone, including members of the armed forces and government officials, had the right to express an opinion.

Freedom of expression was one of the basic human rights guaranteed by the Constitution, he said.

Academics, whom he described as the vanguard in the country's political development, could contribute significantly to the democratization process because they could help shape public opinion and expectations.

Critics should not pass hasty judgement on the performance of the Chuan administration, which had assumed power at the juncture of the return of democracy and should be given more time to tackle the problems facing the country.

"A government under a democratic system has its limitations because it has to moderate conflicting views in order to find ways to solve national problems," Michai said.

Asked to comment on the political development plan put forward by a group of academics, Michai said it was a good idea to try to develop the country's political system along with national and social development.

But he said political development needed more than a well-conceived and concrete plan on how to accelerate democratization in the country.

"The collective way of thinking of the people should be changed, if the political development plan is to succeed," Michai said.

The Senate speaker said democratization in Thailand had come a long way in the 60 years since the country adopted a constitutional monarchy. For example more people were now aware of the importance of participating in government decision-making through the electoral system, and some political parties had been strengthened by grassroots support.

Prasong, Chatchai Exchange Charges Over Vietnam

BK2412024292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Dec 92 pp A1-A2

[Text] Rival Thai politicians are turning Vietnam into a battleground.

It began when Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri commented that an Opposition delegation to Hanoi had stolen and sold to the Vietnamese a Thai government idea to set up a development programme for Indochina.

The delegation, led by ex-prime minister and Chat Phatthana Party leader Chatchai Chunhawan, arrived in Vietnam on Saturday, shortly before Prasong's official visit.

"Anyone can go to Vietnam," Prasong said in Bangkok on Monday, a day before his departure, " [but] that person should not offer false hopes" to the Vietnamese.

Responding to Chatchai's remark that he had a low international profile and had "mishandled" the Cambodian problem, Prasong quipped: "Of course I'm little known because I've never had my assets seized."

Chatchai stands to lose Bt [Baht] 226 million of his assets if the court upholds a military investigators' ruling that he acquired the assets through illegal means.

Local Thai reports on Prasong's assets remark probably reached Vietnam before the minister on Tuesday. The news obviously spoiled the stay of the Chatchai group, said to have been received by the Vietnamese as if it was a state leader's delegation.

Chatchai's son and personal adviser, Kraisak Chunhawan, barely suppressed his anger when he contacted Thai journalists including those in Thailand.

He said it was shameful for Thailand that Prasong was acting like a jealous man on the international stage.

While Chatchai has been trying to promote peace and trade relations in Indochina, "all we have heard from Prasong has been his criticism of our peace initiative", according to Kraisak.

He referred to Prasong's past "staunch anti-Vietnamese position".

Chatchai floated the so-called Indochina Development Fund (IDF) idea during his talks with Vietnamese leaders in Hanoi. Chatchai arrived in Vietnam on Saturday with a delegation of politicians and businessmen.

Denying Prasong's statement that the IDF was a government idea, Kraisak said: "It's a shame to steal our idea and claim we had stolen it from them." The IDF was initiated by Chatichai's advisory team when he was prime minister, he added.

Kraisak denied that Chatchai's trip, which he said had been planned long before Prasong's visit, was politically motivated.

"I don't think Prasong is at ease with his position as foreign minister. I'm very concerned about the Chuan government's image," he said.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday played down Chatchai's visit.

"I believe a veteran politician like Gen Chatchai fully realizes that national interests are a bigger concern than being a government or opposition," the prime minister said.

"Any country, be it Thailand, Japan or Vietnam, must put the government first when facing this kind of situation.

Paper: Decision on Cambodia 'Too Late' for Image

BK2412031492 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Dec 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Cooperation With the UN can improve Thai image"]

[Text] The Cabinet's decision on Tuesday to comply with the UN economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge [KR] came much too late to preventing the world from suspecting that Thailand has been backing the radical Cambodian faction's bid to disrupt the UN-brokered peace process in Cambodia. The image of Thailand supplying KR leaders with everything they want while greedily exploiting Cambodia's natural resources has already been implanted in the minds of those watching the Cambodian situation with growing anxiety.

Earlier, the Foreign Ministry, the Army and several senior politicians inside the Chuan coalition, as well as some opposition leaders, were all singing in chorus about the need to protect Thai-KR timber deals and Thai investment in gem mining in KR-controlled areas near the Thai border because these deals were "legitimate" and they would generate tens of billions of baht in income for Thailand. Some even cited Thai sovereignty as an excuse not to comply with the UN sanctions and to deny cooperation to Untac [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] personnel operating near the border.

They chose to overlook the fact that being a UN member and a party to the Paris peace accords on Cambodia, Thailand has the obligation to abide by the UN Security Council's resolution on the sanctions. They were, however, blinded by short-term border-trading interests and thus could not see the long-term benefits that Thailand would gain from peace in Cambodia and from maintaining a good standing in the United Nations and in the world community at large.

Indeed, the Thai deals with the Khmer Rouge involve huge amounts of money. And undoubtedly a big part of the profits from these highly lucrative deals went to line the pockets of many politicians inside and outside the

Chuan coalition. The Thais dealing with the Khmer Rouge have been enriching themselves and their political supporters at the expense of Thailand's national interests, while the Khmer Rouge have been selling everything to raise funds to buy arms and supplies to prepare for a showdown with their Cambodian rivals and Untac.

Thus former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson was correct in describing as a "crime" the way Thais have been frantically exploiting Cambodian resources, with Thai government blessings and KR protection.

In announcing the Cabinet decision, government spokesman Aphisit Wetchchachiwa also stressed that Thailand was neither backing nor controlling the Khmer Rouge. It is certainly true that Thailand never controlled the Khmer Rouge. Khmer Rouge leaders did, however, owe their survival during the war with the Vietnamese occupation force in Cambodia to secret Thai military support. But their survival is no longer threatened now that the Vietnamese troops have been withdrawn and the Khmer Rouge have accumulated enough arms and cash to fight a new guerrilla war for a few years. The Khmer Rouge's confidence and arrogance could be seen in their bold opposition to the UN peace process, their kidnappings of Untac personnel, and their offensive military moves in western Cambodia this month.

Thailand not only has no control over the Khmer Rouge, but it also has no idea what the Khmer Rouge are up to. Ultimately, the Khmer Rouge seem to want to force the withdrawal of all Untac personnel and oust the Hun Sen regime from power in Phnom Penh. Some Thai strategists see this as a "not so bad" scenario because the Khmer Rouge are seen as more reliable and friendlier to Thailand than any of the other Cambodian factions. If the Khmer Rouge manage to return to power in Phnom Penh, those Thais doing business with this genocidal faction hope to have a head start over others in cashing in on Cambodia.

Such wishful thinking must be suppressed so that the Chuan Cabinet's decision to cooperate with the UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge can be carried out promptly. In the long run, our best bet is to stay with the United Nations and to back the UN peace process which Untac has been trying to keep alive.

Only by cooperating with the UN sanctions in good faith can Thailand begin to erase the highly damaging image that many international figures, such as the former French foreign minister, have in mind. Any unscrupulous attempts at any level to fool the United Nations and the world will only reinforce the international perception of Thailand as being an untrustworthy country bent on exploiting its poor neighbours suffering from internal political turmoil.

Papers View UN Resolution on Khmer Rouge

BK2412110692

[Editorial Report] Two Bangkok vernacular dailies—NAEO NA and SIAM RAT—on 24 December carry editorials commenting on the United Nations economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge and their repercussions on Thailand.

NAEO NA's 300-word editorial on page 4 entitled "Thailand Will Suffer Either From War or Peace in Cambodia" says: "Eventually, Thailand has to comply with the UN Security Council's resolution by closing its border with Cambodia beginning 1 January 1993, which will lead to the suspension of trade between Thailand and the Khmer Rouge."

The editorial notes that nearly all the areas inside Cambodia along the Thai border are under Khmer Rouge control. Therefore, the United Nations ban on trade and association with the Khmer Rouge is tantamount to preventing Thailand from trading with the other Cambodian factions.

The paper says "Thailand had to face difficulties in feeding and sheltering refugees who fled from the protracted civil war and unrest in Cambodia. It wants to be friendly with all Cambodian factions, in particular the one controlling the areas adjacent to its border.... The United Nations resolution prohibiting trade with the Khmer Rouge naturally will hurt Thailand."

The editorial concludes that "as pressure builds, the Khmer Rouge might decide to start fighting. Thailand will be in trouble again because it will be accused of supporting the Khmer Rouge due to its proximity to the Khmer Rouge-controlled areas. Whether the Khmer Rouge wins or loses, Thailand will suffer. Troops from other countries and even the United Nations force will have to get out of Cambodia soon. But Thailand will have to live with the Khmer factions, be they red or white. The United Nations resolution should be flexible for both immediate and future interests of Thailand."

SIAM RAT's 400-word editorial on page 3 entitled "The Cambodian Problem" cites the cabinet's decision to close all the border crossings with Cambodia beginning 31 December in compliance with the United Nations resolution against the Khmer Rouge and the difficulties the Thai Government is facing in its endeavors to alleviate the damages to Thai investment and business in Cambodia.

The paper says "reconciliation among the Khmer factions is still far from reality. The political situation in that country is rough as fighting between the Phnom Penh regime and the Khmer Rouge is escalating. It is unlikely that the UN-organized general election scheduled for next May will be held." There is not much hope for the Thai Government in negotiating with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Supreme National Council for relaxing the restriction to allow Thai logging firms to bring timber out of Cambodia.

Noting ongoing international criticism against Thailand over the Cambodian problem, the editorial says "the government must now be able to decide whether it

should defend the long-term interests of the country or the short-term interests of a group of individuals."

Prime Minister To Visit Malaysia Jan 6-8

BK2212021992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] PRIME Minister Chuan Likphai will visit Malaysia during January 6-8, PM's secretary-general Thawat Wichaidit said yesterday.

Shortly after his return, Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will pay an offcial visit to Thailand from January 16-17, he said.

Membership in GATT Court Sought To Ease Trade

BK2312084092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Thailand will apply for membership of the GATT [General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs] agreement on Technical Barrier to Trade, or GATT TBT court, to facilitate her trading with the European Committee. Secretary General of the Thai Industrial Standards Institute Chen Bunsong says that the meeting of the Committee for Product Standards for Export held recently, chaired by permanent secretary for industry, has agreed that Thailand become a member of the GATT TBT court. By being a member, Thailand will have a priority to negotiate with EC for a role in product inspection and guarantee. The condition on member's priority is set by the EC. Thailand will also receive in advance data on the enforcing and controlling of standards as well as role and responsibility in drafting the regulations. Besides, at the meeting a subcommittee was set up to consider the setting up of an inspection system to be up to world standards.

Successful End of GATT Talks To Benefit Country

BK2412032692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Dec 92 p B1

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Dr Suphachai Phanitchaphak said yesterday that Thailand will benefit from a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, expected to be completed early next year after US President-elect Bill Clinton assumes office.

Suphachai said the state of negotiations in all 15 sectors of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade agenda was acceptable as far as Thailand was concerned, although the US has tried to push for children and women's rights to be introduced to the talks.

"We are reviewing all areas of the Gatt talks and will ask Cabinet to approve some of Thailand's positions," Suphachai said.

Speaking after a meeting at the Office of the International Economic Relations, Suphachai added that Thailand had no objection to the United State's move to propose the formation of a so-called Multilateral Trade Office to settle trade disputes among Gatt members.

Since Gatt is not a statutory body and has no jurisdiction for settling disputes between members, the Multilateral Trade Office, if approved, will undertake the task of preserving order.

The current round of the Gatt talks, which next year enter their seventh year, is expected to be concluded early next year once the United States and EC significantly narrow their differences on farm subsidies.

Under Gatt, agriculture tariffs will be cut and non-tariff barriers transformed into tariffs. Developed countries will be committed to cut farm tariffs by 36 percent over a six-year penod once the agreement is rubber-stamped. Developing countries will reduce theirs' by 24 percent over a 10-year period.

Developed countries will also cut domestic subsidies on farm products by 20 percent in six years, while developing countries will reduce by 13.2 percent in 10 years.

And in the interests of environmental or security protection, developed countries may be allowed to provide 5 percent, and developing countries 10 percent, subsidies.

Export subsidies for farm products will also be cut by 36 percent in six years for the developed countries and 24 percent in 10 years for developing countries.

Thai officials are also studying how the Gatt agreement will affect the Thai rice and sugar industry, given a UN report which indicated that the price of rice and sugar would increase by 18.3 percent and 10.6 percent respectively in the event of a successful conclusion to the Gatt talks.

Suphachai said that if Japan and South Korea both agreed to open their rice markets by only 5 percent, it would result in an increase of some 600,000 tonnes of rice on world markets.

Thailand will also benefit from an increase in textile exports if Gatt succeeds because the Multi-Fibre Agreement, a temporary textile agreement which sets export quotas for developing countries, will be phased out over 10 years.

In telecommunications, Thailand will eventually end its state monopoly through privatization. Suphachai said the Communications and Transport Ministry is studying the matter at present.

In the field of intellectual property rights, Thailand has come under pressure from the United States to strengthen its intellectual property rights for US industries, otherwise it risks retaliatory measures. Suphachai said the issue was sensitive but Thailand would honour whatever agreement was reached at the Gatt talks.

Cabinet Approves Borrowing From Japanese Bank

BK2312131292 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] The cabinet reportedly granted approval for the Finance Ministry to sign an agreement on behalf of the Thai Government to borrow from the Overseas Economic Development Fund of Japan a total of 93 billion yen, or about U.S. $711.82 million or 18.17 billion baht. The loan is for 25 years, with a seven-year grace period and an annual interest rate of three percent.

The projects to benefit from the loan include building the fourth electricity generating unit of 125 megawatt capacity at Sirikit Hydroelectric Dam, improving electricity transmission lines, building a new bridge across the Chao Phraya River and a new section of expressway in Bangkok, developing highways in the sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan, improving water pipelines, protecting the environment against pollution, and funding agricultural and rural development programs.

Government Committee To Increase Paddy Prices

BK2312030192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] The government yesterday decided to increase by another Bt [baht] 4 billion subsidies to shore up paddy prices after initial measures failed to produce the desired result.

The paddy-price committee, chaired by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, also decided that the Commerce Ministry must intervene to buy one million tonnes of rice from exporters and rice millers in addition to the original target of just 390,000 tonnes.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Amnuai Wirawan said the ministry will be allocated a budget of Bt1.5 billion, in addition to the original Bt3 billion. It was also ordered to follow up on rice orders from Russia.

The committee also increased the low-interest credit facility of the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives for pledging paddy from farmers from Bt5 billion to Bt7 billion so as to boost the volume of paddy under the scheme from 1.5 million tonnes to two million tonnes. The pledging price will remain at Bt3,690 per tonne. The bank was also asked to relax its terms to accept pledging for just annual paddy.

The Interior Ministry was given an increase in its credit facility for rice pledging, from Bt300 million to Bt660 million and will expand the service to 42 provinces, from the original 23. The pledging price will remain at Bt200 pe tonne above the market price.

The Bank of Thailand was instructed to increase the availability of packing credits as a result of the low level of borrowings—only Bt1.75 billion for a total of Bt5 billion available. The central bank was asked to consider relaxing its terms.

The Agricultural Promotion Department will increase borrowings from the Farmers' Welfare Fund, from Bt750 million to Btl billion, in order to allow agricultural cooperatives to increase purchases of paddy from members.

Finance Ministry Designates Cuts for AFTA

BK2312022392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Dec 92 p B1

[Text] The Finance Ministry yesterday came up with a final list of manufactured goods earmarked for tariff cuts under a regional free trade area, but insisted on maintaining an exclusion list of 118 products taken out of the fast-track programme for temporary protection.

Somchai Ruchuphan, director general of the Fiscal Policy Office announced that Thailand will participate in all the 15 sectors chosen for accelerated tariff cuts, although it will place in the exclusion list some items from the vegetable oils category and put some petrochemical, plastic and electronic items onto the normal track of tariff cuts.

Thailand's goods set up for accelerated tariff cuts will total 1,936 items (HS 6 digits), equivalent to about 93 per cent of all items in the fast track.

What other Asean members say:

The Finance Ministry stands firm on maintaining an exclusion list of 118 products taken out of the fast-track for temporary protection. These products, however, will be subjected to a review in the eighth year after the launch of the Asean Free Trade Area [AFTA] on Jan 1, 1993.

Thailand along with the five other countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations will embark on a programme of drastic tariff cuts for manufactured goods under the regional free trade area, aiming to bring down tariff barriers to 0-5 per cent over a period of 15 years.

As a commitment to accelerate the AFTA programme, the Asean members have agreed to identify 15 product sectors for tariff cuts in the fast track although they leave open the option to take out items they wish to temporarily protect from outside competition.

Thailand's exclusion list consists of processed agricultural products (16 items), liquor (three items), tobacco (eight items), copper and cathodes (one item), aluminium and aluminium products (two items), electrical appliances (58 items).

"In the negotiations, we have tried to reduce our conditions or limitations to show our commitment to AFTA. The number of goods on the exclusion list is low compared to other Asean countries, and the items to participate in the fast-track are high," said Somchai.

The 15 product sectors on the fast-track cover vegetable oils, cement, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, plastics, rubber and rubber products, leather and leather products, pulp, textiles, ceramics and glass products, gems and jewellery, copper cathodes, electronics, wood and rattan furniture.

On the fast-track, tariffs higher than 20 per cent will be cut to 0-5 per cent within 10 years, starting Jan 1, 1993; tariffs equivalent to 20 per cent or lower will be cut to 0-5 per cent within seven years.

Since Thailand played a key role in initiating AFTA during the 4th Asean Summit, it will show its commitment by unilaterally cutting tariffs higher than 30 per cent to 30 per cent by 1993, as promised by former Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun.

The tariffs of only some items in petrochemicals, electronics and processed agriculture will be cut to 30 per cent by 1996, to give time to the local industries to adjust themselves to foreign competition.

On the normal track, tariffs higher than 20 per cent will be cut to 20 per cent within eight years after Jan 1, 1993. Thereafter they will be cut at five per cent each every two years for seven years, until the rates reach 0-5 per cent in the 15th year.

Tariffs equivalent to 20 per cent or below will be brought down to 0-5 per cent within seven years.

Thailand's tariff reduction plan within AFTA will be a gradual process to allow the local industries time to make the necessary adjustments. Next year tariff cuts will take place mostly on goods with tariffs higher than 30 per cent, which will be brought down to 30 per cent.

The tariff reduction plan will also conform with the Finance Ministry's step to restructure the country's tariff system, under which some sectors—such as machinery equipment, computers, steel parts and chemicals—have seen drastic tariff cuts.

The Finance Ministry is considering further steps to bring down tariff barriers in other sectors as part of Thailand's trade liberalization programme.

Since tariff rates will range between zero and five per cent by the 15th year of the launch of AFTA, Thai industries will need to improve their competitiveness to cope with foreign competition.

New Two-Year Textile Pact Reached With EC

BK2212035392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Dec 92 p 17

[Text] Thailand has clinched a new two-year textile agreement with the European Community which provides additional import quotas and better conditions for Thai exporters.

Under the agreement, which will be signed soon after approval by both parties, the pact must be renewed in the six months before it expires. If neither side takes this step, the agreement will be automatically extended on the same terms for another year.

The agreement follows a second round of textile trade negotiations in Brussels last week.

Thai Garment Manufacturers' Association vice-president Thayut Siyuksiri, a member of the Thai delegation led by Foreign Trade Department deputy director-general Adun Winaiphat, said the outcome will help boost textile exports for two years.

He said the new agreement is a significant improvement on the current agreement which expires on December 31 because it provides additional quotas for Thailand. The EC has relaxed its import regulations.

Mr Thayut said the new pact complies with multilateral textile trade talks under the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The EC agreed to to increase export quotas for Thailand by 1.5 percent-3 percent on average from this year's quotas, before allowing an increase of 3 percent percent under the GATT's rules.

"The increase for Thailand is bigger than for other ASEAN member countries which have already settled an agreement with the EC," Mr Thayut said.

He said the EC has given more privileges under "Outward Processing Traffic" measures for Thailand to export textile products without any import restrictions, providing the goods were made by Thai textile factories which received orders from EC textile producers and used EC fabric in the processing.

"The EC will allow free import quotas to textile products under categories 5, 6 and 8, compared with categories 7, 21 and 26 under the current agreement," Mr Thayut said.

Regional quotas, instead of those by country, will help Thai exporters make better use of their quotas.

Association president Wirot Amatakunchai said exporters are satisfied with the new agreement, especially those sending garments, because the base quota will increase by 300,000 pieces on the 15 million items this year.

Bomb Explodes on Bus; Four Killed

BK2312125092 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Summary] At about 1445 today a bomb exploded at a bus depot on Thoetthai road, Phasi Charoen District, Bangkok, resulting in four people killed and one seriously injured. The force of the explosion badly damaged the bus and several homes nearby. According to initial police investigation, the explosion occurred when a bus conductor opened a handbag left unattended on the bus. The other people killed or wounded happened to be near

the bus. A police official said the inspection showed that the bomb was armed with some kind of triggering device and that he did not know the motive for the incident at this time.

Vietnam

President Meets With ROK Foreign Minister

BK2312160492 Hanoi VNA in English 1434 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 23—President Le Duc Anh received at the Presidential Palace here this morning Mr. Yi Sang-ok, foreign minister of the Republic of Korea, and his party, who arrived on Monday for an official visit to Vietnam. Also present at the reception was Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

President Le Duc Anh welcomed the visit and the results of the talks between the two foreign ministers of Vietnam and the Republic of Korea. He said he hoped that since the relations between Vietnam and the Republic of Korea have been normalized, the friendship and cooperation between the two sides will be promoted. In reply, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok expressed his joy to visit Vietnam and sign a joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as from Dec. 22, 1992 between Vietnam and the Republic of Korea.

He also expressed his belief that their bilateral relations will be further developed for the interest of their people and for regional prosperity.

Also this morning, Foreign Minister Yi and his party left here, concluding their three-day visit to Vietnam.

Reportage on Visit by Thai Foreign Minister

Prasong Arrives 23 Dec

BK2312162092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri arrived in Hanoi on the morning of 23 December to begin his official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of our country's foreign minister. Minister Prasong Sunsiri is accompanied by Mr. Prasat Unakasem, permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry; General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary general of the National Security Council; and many other high-ranking Thai officials.

On hand to welcome the Thai foreign minister and his entourage at the Government Guest House were Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Deputy Interior Minister Le Minh Huong, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai, and many high-ranking cadres of the Foreign Ministry, and representatives of a number of relevant organs of our country.

Also present to welcome the delegation were Thai Ambassador to Vietnam Suraphong Chaiyanam and many cadres from the Thai Embassy.

Meets With Prime Minister

BK2312163292 Hanoi VNA in English 1442 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 23—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received at the Presidential Palace here this afternoon Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and his party who arrived this morning for an official visit to Vietnam.

With the prime minister were Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and other senior officials.

Speaking to his guests, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet stressed that Vietnam has followed with keen interest and highly appreciated the new Thai Government's commitment to continue to develop its existing relations with Vietnam in various fields, and to expand them to other fields.

Therefore, the useful exchange of views and the unanimity of the two foreign ministers on bilateral relations, the necessity and positive measures to solve outstanding questions between the two countries not only benefit both countries but also makes an important contribution to building a peaceful, friedly, stable, cooperative and developed Southeast Asia. He affirmed that since Vietnam and Thailand are close neighbours and play important roles in the region, the Vietnamese Government has no other wish than to build relations of good neighbourliness and increasing cooperation with Thailand on the basis of friendship and mutual understanding and trust. Vietnam is striving and will strive for that goal, he added.

Meets With Counterpart

BK2312163692 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 23—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his Thai counterpart, Prasong Sunsiri, held talks at the Government Guest House here this afternoon.

The Thai foreign minister arrived here this morning for an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

During the talks, the two ministers informed each other of the situation in each country and exchanged views on the relations between the two countries as well as on regional and international issues of common concern.

On their bilateral relations, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the past significant developments, discussed necessary measures for the settlement of some remaining questions, and worked out orientations for furthering the friendship and cooperation between the two countreis in the coming period.

They reiterated the two governments' determination to constantly strengthen to and promote their relations in all fields for the interests of the two peoples and also of peace, stability, cooperation and development in Southeast Asia.

This evening, Minister Prasong Sunsiri and Vietnamese Minister of Finance Ho Te signed an agreement on double taxation avoidance.

Mr. Prasong Sunsiri and Mr Nguyen Manh Cam signed an agreement on Thailand's long-term credit loans of 150 million baht (about US$ six million) to Vietnam.

On this occasion, Mr Prasong handed over US$20,000 and a quantity of medical equipement as aid from the Thai people to the Vietnamese people in flood-stricken areas. Also this evening Minister Nguyen Manh Cam gave a banquet in honour of the Thai guests.

Pledges Study of Land Link

BK2412021892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said he would ask the Government to appoint a working group to seriously study a proposed Thailand-Vietnam transport link through Laos.

"I emphasise that this government gives high priority to relations with neighbouring countries. We will act to realise this project. We're not just here to talk and let it pass like a flash in the pan," he said.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong arrived yesterday in Hanoi for a three-day official visit. His trip comes on the heels of a private visit here by former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan from Saturday to Monday.

The two political rivals will be in Ho Chi Minh City tomorrow and the day after. Gen Chatchai was to arrive in Ho Chi Minh City from Danang yesterday.

While here, the Chat Phatthana Party leader stole the thunder from Sqn Ldr Prasong by proposing to Vietnamese leaders the creation of a Mukdahan-Savannakhet-Danang transport link through the Japanese-sponsored Indochina Development Fund.

Asked whether the proposal was brought up during yesterday's talks, the Foreign Minister said his Vietnamese counterpart asked him to consider helping Vietnam develop its transport infrastructure because Thailand has the expertise and personnel.

"I told him I would convey the request to the Government, which I believe is prepared to lend its utmost cooperation," he said.

He would seek the setting up of a working group to conduct a feasibility study and to secure funding for the project.

The project requires construction of a second bridge across the Mekong River, linking northeast Thailand and Laos, and improving roads from southern Laos to central Vietnam.

"At the very least, we need to talk to all three countries involved. I am going to Laos in the middle of next month," he said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan had reported "good progress" in his talks with the Japanese Government in Tokyo to seek funding for the project, Sqn Ldr Prasong added.

Gen Chatchai said here that he's going to Laos to discuss the proposal again next month. He was already in Tokyo prior to the May elections.

The Foreign Minister yesterday called on Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, and signed two agreements to provide 150 million baht in long-term credit and to avoid double taxation.

On his talks with Mr Kiet, Sqn Ldr Prasong said, "We share the same view on every obstacle that remains to bilateral relations."

He would actively pursue Vietnam's request to expand economic and technical cooperation, especially in agriculture and public health, he said, and believes the Thai Government will respond favourably.

The two foreign ministers yesterday identified bilateral problems and set the stage for further negotiations on fishing cooperation, sea border demarcation, and the question of Vietnamese refugees in northeast Thailand.

Dialogue on these issues had ground to a halt due to the recent political turmoil in Thailand, he said.

"The overall picture is very good," he said, and each side came away from the talks with a better understanding of their respective policies and positions.

Officials from both sides should revive legal and technical talks as soon as possible, said Sqn Ldr Prasong, and all remaining problems will be taken up by the Thai-Vietnamese Joint Commission, which will meet in the first quarter of next year.

He suggested that negotiations on establishing law and order at sea could proceed in tandem with joint fishing activities.

Vietnam had demanded that law and order be established at sea prior to undertaking joint fishing projects.

The two ministers briefly discussed Cambodia, and Vietnam urged Thailand to cooperate with the Paris peace plan. Sqn Ldr Prasong told the Vietnamese that Thailand wants to see a durable peace in Cambodia, all Khmer factions reconciled and administration of the country for the benefit of Cambodians.

Thailand and Vietnam backed opposing sides during the 12-year Cambodian conflict.

During his term at the National Security Council during the Cold War, Sqn Ldr Prasong was known for his anticommunist and anti-Vietnam position.

He first visited Vietnam in 1976 with then-foreign minister Bhichai Rattakul to establish diplomatic relations after the end of the Vietnam War.

Yesterday, he told the Vietnamese foreign minister that he had seen "considerable change" in Hanoi.

"I see more cars and motorcycles and understand that people are living better. This is commendable," he told his Vietnamese counterpart.

He will call on Vietnam's president today and leave for Ho Chi Minh City in the afternoon.

Joint News Conference Held

BK2412121792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 24 dec 92

[Text] A press conference was held in Hanoi on Thursday morning by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and visiting Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri before the latter's departure for Ho Chi Minh City.

Speaking at the press conference, Mr Nguyen Manh Cam said:

[Begin Nguyen Manh Cam recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] The official visit to Vietnam by Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri is to promote the cooperative ties between the two countries. He was received by President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. [end recording].

In his speech at the conference, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said:

[Begin Prasong recording in Thai fading into English translation] I would like to thank the Vietnamese leaders for their warm hospitality. My visit is, first of all, to get acquainted with Vietnamese leaders. The two countries have just set up new governments, so this visit is to strengthen existing relations between the two countries in political, economic, and cultural fields. It also aims at discussing the settlement of outstanding problems. Both sides agree to cooperate in settling all these issues in an effective way. [end recording]

The Thai foreign minister also said that during his talks with Vietnamese leaders, both sides discussed measures to solve the problems beyond the framework of the two countries, particularly those in the region.

On the Cambodian issue, both sides unanimously held that all countries should cooperate and contribute their part in the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia. They agreed on measures to promote the settlement of the Cambodian issue.

Answering a question raised by an AFP correspondent on Thailand's measures to force the Khmer Rouge to abide by the Paris agreement on Cambodia, the Thai foreign minister said: Thailand is a signatory to the agreement so it has joined efforts with international organizations in this issue. Thailand has implemented the U.N. sanction against Khmer Rouge on timber trading along the border, and will take follow-up measures. Thailand is ready to support UNTAC's [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] efforts.

On Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said: Vietnam is worried about the massacre against Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia. Vietnam condemns those acts and hopes that UNTAC and the Supreme National Council of Cambodia will protect the life for the Vietnamese nationals there.

A joint communique on the Thai foreign minister's visit was released at the conference.

National Assembly Session Closes 23 Dec

BK2312135292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Dear friends: After two weeks of intensive work with a high sense of responsibility, those attending the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session held a closing session at 1500 this afternoon at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall with National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh presiding. Attending the closing session were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee; Comrade Le Duc Anh, president of the state; and Comrade Vo Van Kiet, prime minister.

At the closing session, the National Assembly heard Comrade Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, on behalf of the session secretariat, present the full text of a draft resolution on the National Assembly's 1993 tasks. The deputies later passed this resolution with an overwhelming vote in favor.

Comrade Ly Tai Luan of the session secretariat presented a resolution ratifying the 1991 [as heard] state budget and another resolution on the 1993 state budget estimate. The deputies later passed these resolutions with an overwhelming vote in favor.

Comrade Nguyen Van Yeu of the session secretariat presented a resolution on the continued perfection of a draft bill amending and supplementing a number articles of the Law on Land. The deputies later passed this bill with an overwhelming vote in favor.

Next, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh delivered his closing speech. The comrade said:

[Begin Nong Duc Manh recording] Dear Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the CPV Central Committee; Comrade Le Duc Anh, president of the SRV; Comrade Vo Van Kiet, prime minister; National Assembly deputies; and distinguished guests:

After more than two weeks of intensive, democratic, and enthusiastic work, today we are concluding the agenda of the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session. At this session, the National Assembly has spent a great deal of time examining and discussing the following:

—a government report on the implementation of 1992 tasks; on orientations and tasks for 1993 in various domains—socioeconomic, cultural, educational, scientific, national defense and security, foreign relations; on the implementation of the 1992 state budget; on the 1993 state budget estimate; and on the final balance for the 1991 state budget.

—various supplementary reports on the implementation of the policies on socioeconomic development for the mountain regions and for areas inhabited by ethnic minority groups; on procedures for investment in capital construction; on the issues of wages, welfare, and employment; on the situation regarding law enforcement; and on the anti-corruption and anti-smuggling tasks.

The National Assembly favored the government report and affirmed that comprehensive achievements and progress had been scored in the implementation of the 1992 tasks. In compliance with the resolution of the Seventh CPV Congress, we have further restructured our political system in order to build the law-governing Vietnamese state into one that is truly from the people, by the people, and for the people.

The Eighth National Assembly has passed the 1992 Constitution—a basic law of our state—and the law on the organization of the state apparatus. It has gradually restructured the administrative management apparatus at various levels.

The election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly has been concluded with fine success. The Ninth National Assembly is urgently carrying on its institutionalization of the party resolution and the 1992 Constitution to promptly translate them into reality so as to bring the renovation undertaking into an in-depth dimension in a steadier and more comprehensive fashion.

The socioeconomic situation has positively developed. For the first time in many years, we have fulfilled or overfulfilled key targets of various state plans. We have attained an unprecedented high output in grain production. Industries have been developed and foreign economic relations expanded. Export values have increased remarkably while inflation has been curbed and further contained. Market prices have experienced no major upheaval, national security and defense have been strengthened, and political stability has been firmly maintained. We have also achieved great progress in the education, scientific, public health, cultural, and social domains.

These positive changes play a very important role in leading our country toward real stabilization, thereby helping to extricate our nation from the current socio-economic crisis and speeding up the pace of development for 1993 and the ensuing years.

These achievements are the results of the great efforts made by our entire party, people, and Armed Forces as well as by the Vietnam Fatherland Front and other mass organizations and associations, especially their serious implementation of the party renovative lines, resolutions of the National Assembly, and policies and laws of the state. Moreover, the government, administrative echelons, and sectors have made great efforts in providing effective guidance and supervision to localities to carry out various tasks. On behalf of the National Assembly, I highly commend our countrymen and cadres throughout the country for their efforts in developing the great unity tradition, in striving to achieve self-reliance, and in overcoming all difficulties and ordeals, thereby scoring various great achievements during the past year. [applause]

Dear National Assembly deputies, we are entering 1993, the important and pivotal year of the 1991-95 five-year economic development plan. Our nation now enjoys various new opportunities and favorable conditions; however, difficulties and great, complicated ordeals still prevail. Our economy is still functioning at a low level and we have not yet completely extricated our country from its economic crisis. We have not been able to stop the degradation in the education, public health, cultural, and social domains, while employment and an improvement in the wage system are pressing tasks awaiting us at present. The social order and safety situation is developing complicatedly. Corruption, smuggling, tax evasion, counterfeiting, and other social vices are developing alarmingly while negligence in the management of state affairs and socioeconomic activities still prevails.

To strive to develop our favorable conditions, take advantage of our new opportunities, and effectively overcome difficulties and weaknesses, the National Assembly would like to urge the government to strengthen the management of state affairs; to continue to reform the administrative machinery at various echelons; to perfect cadre-related work; to formulate decisive measures to eliminate social vices to restore the people's confidence and to maintain social order and safety; and to create more favorable conditions to triumphantly fulfill all the 1993 tasks.

Also at this second session, the Ninth National Assembly has passed the draft bill on supplementing and amending some articles of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam, the draft bill on supplementing and amending some provisions of the Criminal Code, and the draft bill

on supplementing and amending some stipulations of the Law on Criminal Procedure. This is aimed at strengthening the socialist legal system to meet requirements in the management of the socioeconomic situation at present, thereby effectively serving the struggle against corruption and smuggling and helping to expand our economic relations with foreign countries.

The National Assembly has contributed views on the draft bill amending and supplementing the Law on Land so it can be rectified and widely disseminated for public view. The National Assembly has heard the government report on its diplomatic activities in 1992 and the course of its diplomatic activities for 1993.

The National Assembly held that the positive diplomatic activities of our state have contributed to forming a more favorable international environment for the cause of national construction and defense, securing national interests, firmly maintaining sovereignty and territorial integrity, improving the role and position of our country, thus helping to maintain peace and stability and to step up the trend toward cooperation in the region and the rest of the world.

Entering 1993, diplomatic activities should be continued to accelerate in a more positive and dynamic fashion in order to develop what has been achieved and practically serve various socioeconomic and national defense and security tasks if we are to quickly advance our country along the renovative path and prevail over poverty and backwardness for the sake of the independence of the fatherland and the freedom and happiness of the people as well as for peace, friendship, and cooperation in the region and the world over.

Dear National Assembly deputies: To serve this session, various National Assembly delegations have met voters to seek to understand the people's aspirations so as to bring them to the attention of the National Assembly. The Nationalities Council and other committees of the National Assembly have, together with the government, the Supreme People Organ of Control, the Supreme Peope's Court, and responsible organs, made great efforts in preparing the many reports and draft bills for the National Assembly to deliberate and decide upon.

You, National Assembly deputies, have worked hard, heatedly debated, fully demonstrated democratic principles, contributed many suggestions, and promptly reflected what the people are concerned about, thus making this National Assembly session a fine success.

The National Assembly would like to hail and commend various news agencies and press organs for having promptly reflected many activities of the National Assembly throughout the mass news media, thus meeting the demand for information of the compatriots at home and abroad.

The National Assembly would like to commend various service organs for their positive and devoted efforts and their contributions to the overall success of this session. Following this session, we, the National Assembly deputies, should resolve to uphold our sense of responsibility to satisfactorily execute the National Assembly's supvervisory right over various state organs so they can scrupulously enforce the law, and maintain law and discipline in state and socioeconomic management. We should translate our love into action. We should, together with the people's councils, the administration, the Fatherland Front committees at all levels, and various mass and social organizations, motivate the people to practice thrift in order to make investments for development. We should strive to contribute to eradicating the ills of corruption, smuggling, counterfeiting, and other social vices and should strive to implement all those tasks for 1993 already approved by the National Assembly.

The National Assembly has called on compatriots and soldiers nationwide and overseas compatriots to, for the sake of a prosperous people and a powerful country, unanimously develop the tradition of all-people great unity, uphold the sense of self-support and self-reliance, dynamically and creatively overcome all obstacles and difficulties, develop advantages, exploit all potentials, strive to successfully achieve all the targets for 1993, maintain and stabilize the situation in all aspects, and generate the momentum for further development in the ensuing years.

On the occasion of the 1993 New Year, I would like to wish National Assembly deputies, compatriots and soldiers nationwide, and overseas compatriots a New Year full of new progress and new successes.

I hereby declare the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session closed. [applause] [end recording]

Communique No 11

BK2312154492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Dec 92

["Communique No. 11" of the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session]

[Text] This morning the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session held a plenary meeting at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi. Comrade Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly, directed the meeting.

The National Assembly heard Comrade Ha Manh Tri, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, present more details on some issues aimed at perfecting the draft bill on supplementing and amending some articles of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam.

After listening to Comrade Nguyen Van Yeu, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, read the text of the draft bill on supplementing and amending some articles of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam which was

revised on the basis of ideas contributed by deputies, the National Assembly discussed and voted to improve the entirety of this draft bill.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly held a closing session under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh.

The National Assembly heard Comrade Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, read the text of the draft resolution on the National Assembly's 1993 tasks. The National Assembly discussed and unanimously approved this resolution.

The National Assembly also heard Comrade Ly Tai Luan, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, read the text of the draft resolution ratifying the final account of the 1991 state budget and the 1993 state budget estimates. The National Assembly discussed and unanimously approved this resolution.

The National Assembly heard Comrade Nguyen Van Yeu, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, read the text of the draft resolution on further perfecting the draft bill on amending and supplementing some articles of the Law on Land. The National Assembly discussed and unanimously approved this resoltion.

Afterward, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh delivered a closing speech of the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session.

The Ninth National Assembly's Second Session was concluded with splendid success.

Finland To Aid Hanoi Water Supply Program

BK1812064792 Hanoi VNA in English 0620 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 18—Finland will grant Hanoi an aid of 27 million Finnish marks (about 7.2 million USD) for 1993 to improve the water supply system in the capital city. The aid, provided in a protocol signed between Prof. Truong Tung, vice-chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee, and Mr. Antti Rantala, representative of the Finnish International Development Agency (Finnida) in Hanoi yesterday afternoon, is part of the Finnish Governments's aid of 152 million marks for the third phase of the water supply project in the 1991-95 period. In the 1993 programme, Vietnam will contribute 17 billion dong. The two sides also signed the minutes of the fifth session of the Vietnam-Finland Supervisory Board Committee for the water supply project, during which project implementation in 1992 was reviewed and the plan for next year was discussed.

Trade Minister Meets With Cuban Trade Delegation

BK2112152992 Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 21—A Cuban trade delegation led by Ricardo Cabrisas, minister of foreign trade, arrived here on Dec. 20 for a working visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Trade.

This morning, Minister of Trade Le Van Triet received and had a working session with the delegation during which the two ministers reviewed their recent trade activities and discussed how to promote their trade cooperation and goods exchange between the two countries in 1993.

Ho Chi Minh City Economic Statistics Reported

BK2012095892 Hanoi VNA in English 0133 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 20—According to Ho Chi Minh City's Statistics Bureau, industrial production in November totalled 478.7 billion dong (about 47 million US dollars), up by 4.7 percent over the previous month.

Some electric and electronic goods increased by 7 percent, fertilizer by 21 percent, sugar by 2 percent and garments by 3.4 percent compared with October.

This raised industrial gross output value of the city in the first eleven months of this year to 4,603.7 billion dong (about 460 million US dollars) representing 92.2 percent of the yearly plan and up by 15.6 percent compared with the same period last year.

Also in November the city invested 161 billion dong (about 16 million US dollars) in upgrading and repairing infrastructural works such as bridges, water drainage and supply systems, hospitals, and other civil projects.

In November, state-run trade services and the marketing cooperatives bought 626 billion dong (about 62 million US dollars) worth of goods and sold 566 billion dong (about 56 million US dollars) worth of goods. The private trades also increased their sales by 5.6 percent compared with the previous month.

The price of the dollar dropped to 10,780 dong and the price of gold to 450,000 dong a "chi" (one tenth of a tael).

The city's export value reached USD 37 million, up by 19 percent over the same month last year, consisting chiefly of rice (45,000 tonnes), coffee (2,000 tonnes), and frozen shrimps (800 tonnes).

Import value reached USD 47 million, 25 percent over the same month in 1991, consisting chiefly of fuel (USD 10 million) and chemicals (USD 1.5 million).

Revenues in foreign exchange from tourist services totalled USD 2.3 million, two percent more than October.

The total export value of the city in the first eleven months of this year was USD 435.7 million, accounting for 79.2 percent of the yearly plan.

Phan Van Khai Addresses Army Training Conference

BK2012142492 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The Army General Staff Department recently held a conference for preliminary review of the tasks of renovation in military training in the past three years, 1990-1992, and to evaluate the combat training in 1992. The conference was also for high-level command staff to thoroughly study directives in military training and political education for 1993 as well as new military strategies and techniques.

At the training sessions for the command staff, apart from learning new experiences and techniques in military training, participants were trained on the field with maps, which is close to real situations of commanding, training, and combat tasks.

Comrade Phan Van Khai, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy prime minister, and General Doan Khue, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister for National Defense, attended and addressed the conference.

Comrade Phan Van Khai praised the participating cadres and combatants for having shown high motivation in learning and training, and for successful completion of the tasks assigned by the party, the state, and the army. He also urged the generals, officers, and soldiers to strive to fulfill successfully the two strategic responsibilities.

1992 Paddy Harvest Nearly 11 Million Tonnes

BK2112061392 Hanoi VNA in English 0557 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 21 —Farmers in the Mekong River delta provinces harvested nearly 11 million tonnes of paddy rice for this year, accounting for half of the national food output, reported the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

This year the Mekong River delta provinces grew 2,865,000 hectares of paddy, 109,000 hectares over last year's acreage. The paddy rice yield averaged 3.81 tonnes a hectare. Leading was An Giang which cultivated 351,000 ha and achieved a total output of more than 1.7 million tonnes of paddy rice with an average yield of 4.8 tonnes per hectare.

VNA Cites Agricultural Statistics

BK2312161092 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 23—Farmers throughout the country have put 1,320,000 ha [hectares] under industrial crops, 40,000 ha more than last year.

The short-term crops include groundnut, soybean, cotton, mulberry and sugarcane while long-maturity crops include tea, coffee, and rubber. Some main crops recorded substantial increases in acreages over 1991, tea by 2,000 ha, coffee by 3,100 ha, rubber trees by 6,000 ha, etc.

—tan loc sericultural enterprise (Dong Nai Province) has invested more than 5 billion VN dong in planting 1,100 ha of mulberry.

The enterprise has purchased 160 tonnes of cocoons and processed 12 tonnes of silk for export.

Culture, Information Delegation Visits Thailand

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[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 24—A delegation of the Ministry of Culture and Information led by its deputy minister, Prof. Dr. Dinh Quang, paid an official visit to Thailand from Dec. 14-21 on the occasion of the 60th birthday of the queen of Thailand.

The delegation met Deputy Minister of Education Pramot Sukhum, Secretary General of the National Cultural Commission Rung Kaeodang, and Chairman of the Cultural Commission of the National Assembly Amumi Suwannakhiri.

Deputy Minister Dinh Quang and the Thai officials discussed prospects of enhancing cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Also on this occasion, the Thang Long Water Puppet Troupe of Hanoi gave nine performances including a special one dedicated to the princess and the royal family of Thailand.